



Thursday, June 15, 2017

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Christina's family says 'very few' lessons learned

PUBLIC ARE STILL AT RISK – REPORT

Report by Rob Golledge

THE public is still being put at risk of harm by violent criminals with mental health problems being released from prison, a damning report into the killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins has found.

An independent investigation, published yesterday (Wednesday) found the NHS, police, local authorities and prison service are still letting prisoners on the streets without adequate 'support and supervision' – which has been described as an 'extreme concern' by report authors Niche.

It comes more than four years after the 16-year-old Leasowes High School student was stabbed to death on a bus by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, just weeks after he was released from jail.

The report – which refers to Simelane as 'P' – has made 25 recommendations across the public sector but says 'many of the same' failings highlighted in a previous NHS investigation in 2014 are still ongoing. These include failures to share information about people with mental health problems and assess their needs properly.

Criticised

The latest report has been criticised by Christina's family who said reading the report had been 'extremely hard' and 're-opened wounds'.

In statement, they said: "What makes it even harder for us is hearing and reading continuing that 'lessons need to be learned' whilst knowing that in reality very few lessons have been learned and, over time, little has actually changed."

Simelane, who lived in Sandwell and Walsall, boarded the number 9 bus on the morning of March 7, 2013, before stabbing Christina. He had a history of violent outbursts, including making threats to murder. He had been released from HMP Birmingham on December 13 but healthcare bosses did not know the he was leaving prison or where he was living.

He admitted manslaughter and was detained under the Mental Health Act in October 2013.

The report states: "The largest concern shared by all on the investigation panel and many of the people we interviewed was that despite these efforts, the challenges to ensure appropriate aftercare on release for prisoners with mental health problems remain.

"If we were able to make just one recom-



Christina Edkins – long-awaited report into her death concludes that the public are still at risk from violent criminals with mental health problems



Phillip Simelane – systemic failures within multiple services and by some professionals left Christina's killer on the streets

mendation to improve services and reduce the likelihood of such a tragic case happening again, it would be that national services concerned strenuously work together to improve the care and aftercare of prisoners with mental problems.

"Despite this we also want to recognise, not just the individual service efforts made to address the findings of the initial investigation report, but also the other wider changes made to services across the West Midlands that we hope will lead to earlier detection and access to more appropriate and timely intervention for offenders with mental health problems."

Nick Moor, director of report author Niche, said: "It was evident through our investigation that over time there had been systemic failures within multiple services and by some professionals to correctly assess and identify P's increasing risk of dangerousness."

"This was compounded by other factors.

Alongside being quiet and shy, P concealed and denied his mental health problems when assessed. Many of the services in contact with P failed to obtain and review other information in order to build a more comprehensive picture of P. This led to a failure to properly assess and meet his needs, in particular the lack of supportive mental health care upon his release from HMP Hewell or HMP Birmingham."

Mother

The killing of Christina rocked the community and posed many questions over how such a tragedy could happen.

She was stabbed to death in Birmingham while on her way to Leasowes High School, in Halesowen, to take a GCSE mock exam.

She suffered a single stab wound as she sat in the top deck of the packed bus while it made its way along Hagley Road close to

Five Ways just after 7.30am. Passengers performed CPR, and the bus driver phoned police and paramedics, but despite their attempts nothing could be done to save her.

A manhunt was immediately launched and officers combed the area for the suspect. Simelane was eventually arrested and taken away at 12.30pm after being spotted acting suspiciously at the back of a nearby Morrisons supermarket.

Police revealed that Simelane, who came to the UK from Swaziland when aged nine, was freed from prison less than three months before the attack.

He had a total of seven previous convictions and had previously served a prison sentence for threatening his own mother with a knife. He also punched a police officer during his arrest.

Police had received 21 calls from his mother about his behaviour over 10 years.

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DEVELOPMENT

Old Jonathans site
plans are delayed

A DECISION on a plan to redevelop a famous hotel building in Warley has been put off after objections were raised.

The Best Inn – previously Jonathans Hotel and Restaurant – is at the junction of Wolverhampton Road and Hagley Road West.

It could be knocked down to be replaced with a restaurant and 33 flats.

Sandwell's planning committee were due to discuss the plans this week but the matter has been postponed until a site visit can be held.

ACCIDENT

**Motorcyclist killed
in two-car collision**

A MOTORCYCLIST has died following a crash in which he was involved in a collision with two cars near Belbroughton.

Police said the rider of a Kawasaki ZZR motorcycle on the B41788 at Hackmans Gate Lane was involved in a collision with a Fiat Punto and a Ford Focus. The rider was pronounced dead at the scene after the accident at 2.40pm on Sunday.

Police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101.

FIRE

**Woman rescued after
blaze in a laundrette**

A WOMAN was treated for smoke inhalation after a tumble dryer caught fire in a laundrette in Cradley Heath.

Firefighters were called to Redd Hill Road on Sunday afternoon to the blaze.

A woman who was living in a flat above the business was led to safety by firefighters before she was given treatment.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "We had a call at 2.20pm. We sent three fire engines to the scene, two were from Haden Cross and one was from Brierley Hill."

"A tumble dryer was well alight within the ground floor of a commercial shop."

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Skills are top priority for town's MP

IT was a strong victory in Halesowen and Rowley Regis for James Morris as he held onto his seat for the Conservatives, more than six thousand votes ahead of his Labour opponent Ian Cooper.

Mr Morris was greeted with cheers and applause on his victory speech.

He said: "I think our campaign was very positive and we got a good reception for what we want for the country

as well as this area. Our main focus in Halesowen and Rowley over the past seven years has been to help young people get into education, training and employment."

"We've made big progress in that area and we are determined to continue to do what we can to improve the skills for young people and to continue to grow the local economy."

He added: "I will continue to stand

up for the people of Halesowen."

In his defeat Ian Cooper thanked his family and team and spoke of future change in the area.

He said: "We fought a tough election for the many not the few. These things that we have built together this election should not be left to crumble. I feel that a strong message has been put out across the country not just the Halesowen area..



James Morris gives a victory speech

Businesses now facing a period of uncertainty

BUSINESS bosses across the Black Country have warned of 'a period of uncertainty' following the General Election result, which they described as 'the worst outcome'.

With no party winning a clear majority, the Conservatives plan to govern with support from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce chief executive Corin Crane said: 'We enter a period of more uncertainty that will do nothing to help local businesses plan and trade as we start the difficult process of trying to find clarity following a largely anti-business campaign.'

'Across the Black Country we have world-class businesses of every shape and size and brilliant entrepreneurs that all want to trade, grow their business and recruit skilled and enthusiastic members of staff.'

'We need major investment in our local infrastructure, support for schools and providers, a clear and positive agreement at the end of the Brexit negotiations and the right sort of budgets and powers delegated to our new mayor to help us drive regeneration forward.'

Black Country Local Enterprise Board member Ninder Johal: 'We were all very surprised when the election was called. They did this to try to make their cause stronger but the reverse has happened. This makes things much more uncertain for businesses. It's probably the worst possible outcome. Businesses will knuckle down but the result doesn't help.'

UKIP's Bill in leadership bid

UKIP must reinvent itself after the resignation of its leader Paul Nuttall, according to one of its leading figures, West Midlands UKIP MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge.

Mr Etheridge has announced his intention to stand as leader but only if he can't persuade the party's best known figure, Nigel Farage, who now hosts a radio talk show, to return as leader.

UKIP had been hoping to make gains in Thursday's poll, with Mr Nuttall running a campaign pledging to 'ensure there is no backsliding on Brexit'.

After UKIP failed to gain a single seat in Westminster – and with Mr Nuttall coming third in Boston & Skegness – he opted to quit, saying: 'A new era must begin with a new leader.'

Mr Etheridge said the party 'has no more lives left' and needs to reinvent itself. He added: 'We have to refocus and become a more rounded party that has strong proposals for Britain based on the core values of individual freedom. I think there's a massive opportunity for that kind of party. We need to become a modern libertarian party with individual freedom right at the core of everything we do.'

Recount drama with victory by just 22 votes

By Maria Cusine

HANGING on to his seat, despite it being by a very narrow margin, was still a 'remarkable achievement' says Labour's Ian Austin.

The Tories had set their sights on turning Dudley North blue but it wasn't to be after a dramatic night during the count at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre in the early hours of Friday.

There were two recounts after the first count revealed it was neck and neck between the Labour candidate and the Conservatives' Les Jones. At just after 7am the result was finally declared with Mr Austin finishing just 22 votes ahead of his Tory rival.

He said: "In the end this was one of the seats that Theresa May called the election to win. It was one of those target seats that they spent a lot of money flooding with material, with Theresa May all over it. So I think to have hung on in a traditionally marginal seat – it's always going to be a close contest in Dudley North – is a remarkable achievement."

Priorities

Mr Austin said he now had a number of priorities after being re-elected.

"I'll be working as hard as possible to improve education in Dudley. I promise to work as hard as I can to help with the new £30 million industrial skills and apprenticeships centre in the town."

"I will be working non-stop on that and trying to transform the town centre. I will be fighting hard for patients and staff at Russells Hall Hospital."

"Every day for the last 12 years I've got out of bed and thought what can I do to improve things in Dudley and I promise local people that that will go on," he added.

Earlier in the night, Conservative Mike Wood held his seat in Dudley South with a majority of 7,822 over Labour's Natasha Millward.

The Conservatives also held Stourbridge and Halesowen & Rowley Regis. Margot James in Stourbridge won by a majority of 7,654 votes, while James Morris saw his majority reach 5,253 in Halesowen & Rowley Regis.



Relieved and delighted – Labour's Ian Austin celebrates retaining his seat for Dudley North after two recounts



Margot James won Stourbridge win 54.5 per cent of the vote and said she will continue efforts to bring investment



In his speech Mike Wood thanked Russells Hall Hospital staff who helped save his life when struck down by sepsis

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60 more jobs facing axe at Brintons carpet plant

HISTORIC carpet company Brintons is aiming to axe around 60 jobs at its factory in Kidderminster as it shuts down weaving of Axminster carpets after more than a century.

The company, which has been making carpets in the town since 1783, first patented specialist looms to make Axminster carpets in 1890.

The latest move comes just 18 months after Brintons cut another 65 jobs from the Kidderminster workforce.

The loss of 60 jobs will see just 53 remaining on the operational side at the site. Another 89 work at the firm's head offices at Kidderminster.

Brintons' management say they will try to offer those who lose their jobs at Kidderminster new roles at the company's Telford factory. This could mean 10 to 15 transferring.

The company says that, following an operational review, it intends to restructure its production processes and 'cease the weaving of Axminster carpets at the Kidderminster site'.

The company has entered a 30-day consultation period with production employees affected by the proposal to reduce headcount at the Kidderminster site by around 60 full-time employees.

Brintons said its Stourport Road site in Kidderminster remains an important location to the group. It will continue to house the company's dyeing plant, Wilton weaving, the warehousing and distribution of residential carpets and the group's head office.

More teens linked to man's death

THREE more teenagers have been charged with offences connected to the death of a father-of-two from Netherton.

Window fitter Simon Johnson, 41, was found at his home in Cradley Road, Netherton, on August 11. He died from stab wounds.

Damilola Johnson, aged 18, who is not a relation, has already been charged with murder, along with a 16-year-old who cannot be named.

Police have now confirmed that Jack Griffin, 19, of The Beck, Netherton, Abbey Hughes, 19, of Harcourt Road, Cradley Heath, and 18-year-old Clayton Pritchard, of Petford Street, Cradley Heath, have been charged with theft. Pritchard has also been charged with assault and burglary.

Road being closed for water works

JUNCTION Road in Wordsley, will be closed on Tuesday and the following Thursday for work by Amey, on behalf of Severn Trent Water, to provide a new water connection. The road will be closed from Diamond Park Drive.

College plans revamp to boost access

A COLLEGE campus in the Black Country will undergo a revamp which will see the creation of two new plazas and dozens of parking spaces, under new plans.

Plans to improve the accessibility of the Whittington campus site of Halesowen College have been unveiled by college bosses.

The college said in the application that it is responds directly to problems with the current campus entrance.

The application states that the improvements are to 'promote roadside presence', 'enhance kerbside safety' and to 'improve accessibility'.

The application also includes plans to create 36 additional car parking spaces for staff and visitors,

to demolish an existing bungalow and single-storey shop unit and relocate the bus stop outside the site.

A new entrance archway and additional trees are also announced in the plans for the college, where more than 3,500 study.

Councillor Simon Phipps said: "The college has always been a good asset to Halesowen over the years. It's nice to have a good educational institute on people's door step in Halesowen."

Improve

"The plans should hopefully improve access to the site and make things a little easier."

"I have been working with them a lot about concerns about parking in the area but hopefully this

application shouldn't have a major impact on that and should improve access."

The number of students will not increase because of the application.

Councillor Ian Cooper said he would welcome the plans if parking is the number one priority. He said: "I've had discussions with Halesowen College for a number of years now. Car parking and traffic management has to be the number one priority so if that has been taken into account I would welcome the plans."

Jacquie Carman, director of finance and corporate services at the college, said: "We are committed to providing an outstanding learning environment for our students."

NEWS IN BRIEF

No to homes on green belt land

A PROPOSAL for nine homes in Stourbridge has been turned down.

The planning application was for homes on a green belt site off Norton Road in Stourbridge.

Recommending refusal, planning officers at Dudley Council said: "It is considered that the proposed dwellings would be inappropriate development and introducing built form to a greenfield site where no development has previously occurred. There are no very special circumstances in this case to outweigh the harm that would be caused to the green belt."

007 music gets star treatment

WEST End stars will lead a musical celebration of The Best of James Bond at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday night.

More than 50 years of Bond themes, such as From Russia With Love, Diamonds Are Forever, You Only Live Twice and Skyfall, will be sung by former Wicked stars Louise Dearman and Oliver Tompsett, with the London Concert Orchestra.

The concert will also include themes from several other spy and detective movies and TV series. See thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Tea and talk at care home event

RESIDENTS and carers at a Black Country care home will enjoy an open day based on a traditional high tea.

The event at Broadway Halls Care Home, on The Broadway in Dudley, is being held tomorrow (Friday).

Home manager Denise Baker said: "We are inviting families, friends and neighbours in for an enjoyable social occasion, a chat and an opportunity to see what living in a care home is like."

Anyone interested in attending should call (01384) 215190.

Private garden opens in aid of hospice funds

A COUPLE will be opening their garden to the public to raise money for charity next weekend.

Ron and Anne Kerr are inviting people to look around their garden at 20, Waxland Road, Halesowen on Sunday, June 25.

Their garden features waterfalls which cascade over rocks down into ponds set within a woodland area.

Money raised from entrance fees and plant sales will be donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Art event at church

A BRIC-A-BRAC, art and collectables event is being held in Stourbridge on Saturday.

Members of the Stourbridge Art Group have organised the event, which is being held at St Thomas's Church, in Market Street, between 10am until 4pm.

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4 BMOS bring 'lovelly' show to the stage

ONE of Birmingham's top amateur musical theatre companies is staging the stylish musical My Fair Lady at one of the city's major theatres next week.

Based on George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, Lerner and Loewe's musical is set in Edwardian London as Professor Henry Higgins attempts to teach humble flower girl Eliza Doolittle the manners of a duchess.

It features such classic songs as Wouldn't It Be Lovelier, I Could Have Danced All Night, With A Little Bit Of Luck, Get Me To The Church On Time, On The Street Where You Live, and I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face.

BMOS Musical Theatre Company, which was founded 130 years ago, will stage the show at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, June 20 to 24.

Several BMOS members have gone on to forge careers on stage and screen, including Kathryn Rooney, Jon Boydon and Margaret Prece.

The Birmingham Opera Society was founded in 1886 and the Midland Opera Society in 1916. In 1927 the two companies merged to become the Birmingham and Midland Operatic Society (BMOS).

See websites bmosmusi.cals.org or www.atgtickets.com/shows/my-fair-lady/new-alundra-theatre-birmingham for tickets or more information.



The Cobra Classic race set off from Old Halesonians Rugby Club



Michael Tovey gives daughter Emily a lift



The fun run, an alternative to the Cobra Classic attracted many youngsters



On the run - Louise Collins, Abby Evans, Ffion Collins, Lewis Collins



Jo Coates and son Danny, aged 10



On the road again, runners were on a route around Hagley

£2m spent helping smokers kick habit

ALMOST £2 million has been spent helping smokers in the Black Country and Staffordshire quit the habit in less than a year.

More than 5,000 people reported they had successfully quit after turning to experts for help between April and December 2016, according latest figures. A total of £1,963,985 was spent by councils in the region on tackling smoking during the period.

The amount spent on help and support per smoker varied, ranging from £258 in Dudley to £1,002 in Wolverhampton.

MORE than 150 runners battled the elements to take part in a windswept 10k run in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

In fact, the conditions were so blustery for Sunday's annual Cobra Classic in Halesowen that the wind

threatened to blow away the finish line.

Organisers had to grapple with the inflatable arch to keep it in place before finally having to admit defeat and take it down.

Competitors were oblivious to the

capers taking place at Old Halesonians Rugby Club in in Wassell Grove, where the race started and finished after a circular route towards Hagley and Stourbridge. Less experienced and some younger entrants opted for the 3.5k route.

The race was organised by the Cobra Running Club, at Halesowen Leisure Centre. Retiring chairman Chris Pearson said: "It was very windy on the day which did affect the runners, especially on the last half of the route which is quite hilly. At the

finish line we'd got a big inflatable arch which almost blew away. It took eight people to hold it down and in the end we had to collapse it. But it was a great day."

The winner was Ian Mansell from Nuneaton Running Club.

Blustery Cobra Classic run

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Profits on the rise as society growing

DUDLEY Building Society is a bigger business than its ever been as profits grew to £1.72 million.

The 159-year-old Brierley Hill-based society's pre-tax profit figure for the year to the end of March increased from £1.33m to £1.72m.

But the level of mortgage lending was down on the previous financial year.

It lent £51.9m during the year compared to £57.4m in 2015-2016, but total assets rose from £353.7m to £354.7m and reserves increased from £19.9m to £21.3m.

Chief executive Jeremy Wood said that the society was in a strong position and had built on its successful performance of the past few years and was now larger than at any time in its history.

"We continue to grow our business and we are employing more people than ever to meet the evolving needs of our customers," he said.

The society has experienced high levels of mortgage applications. The society has been extending its mortgage offer across England with only 35.1 per cent of its mortgages last year within the West Midlands.

The society, which has its headquarters at Harbour Buildings, The Waterfront, now has five branches. It is one of only 44 building societies remaining in the UK.

Brake put on illegal car rally as organisers fined

TWO women who breached the Black Country ban on car cruising by organising a gathering have been hit with a £3,000 bill by the High Court.

More than 80 people responded to an internet invitation posted by 19-year-old Chloe Kendrick, of Bilton, and Devon Roden, 25, of Netherton.

By Marion Brennan

against anyone found to be involved in car cruising.

The court, sitting in Birmingham, heard that Kendrick quickly removed the posts from Facebook, while Roden contacted those planning to attend to inform them it was cancelled.

Although the gathering did not go ahead, West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Policing Group were diverted to the location in case it did.

Judge McKenna told the women: "Having posted and organised such an event, significant police resources had to be deployed, resources that could have been more usefully used elsewhere. Car cruising is extremely dangerous. Breaches of High Court orders are serious."

Kendrick and Roden were each fined £1,000, ordered to pay Wolverhampton Council's £500 costs and were warned a further breach would likely mean prison.

Monitor

The planned meeting quickly attracted a large following, prompting officers from Wolverhampton Council's anti-social behaviour team to visit Kendrick and Roden and advise them they were in breach of the High Court injunction.

They were asked to cancel the event and warned that police would monitor the venue and take proceedings

Celebrating a Luna landing at the zoo



Brazilian tapir mother Meena with her new baby, Luna, born at Dudley Zoo

SAY hello to little Luna, the newest addition to Dudley Zoo's endangered Brazilian tapir family.

Mother Meena gave birth to the female youngster on May 28 following a 13-month pregnancy and has spent the last few days tucked away in off-show dens.

The zoo's assistant curator Jay Haywood, said: "We've waited a long time to hear the pitter patter of tiny tapir feet, so we're delighted she's finally here."

"This is Meena's sixth baby, so she's a very experienced mum and the baby is very strong and healthy."

And in another first, the zoo got dad, Chico, to choose his baby's name by selecting a named apple.

Keepers came up with suggestions, which we then added onto the fruit, before getting Chico to pick his favourite – and Luna was the winner.

Baby tapirs are born with the distinctive spotty and striped pattern, which will gradually begin fading when she reaches approximately six months old.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church service helps with grieving

A REMEMBRANCE service for the families and friends of those who were cared for in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice before their deaths is being held in Oldswinford.

The service, which offers a time of reflection to families, will be held at St Mary's Church, Rectory Road, on June 21.

Friends and family are invited to attend the event where they can light a candle and remember those who have died. The evening will also feature readings and music performed by the hospice's own choir. The hospice's Marie Faux said: "The service will offer a special celebration to give thanks for those memories and support each other through difficult times."

Call (01384) 443010.

Music out of this world at concerts

SPACE inspires concerts in Birmingham later this month.

The Space Spectacular: Star Wars & Beyond concerts – on Friday, June 23, at 7.30pm and Sunday, June 25, at 3pm – will be held at Symphony Hall.

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This tribal hatred in politics is out of order

NOT long ago, at a match between Aston Villa and Birmingham City, it quickly became apparent to me that I seemed to be the only one in the stand who was actually watching the game.

All those sat around me had turned round in their seats, facing almost 90 degrees away from the pitch, shouting abuse in the direction of the opposition fans. The tribal hatred appeared to be far more important than the game itself.

I only raise the point because that seems to be about the quality of the debate we have had regarding the General Election over the past few weeks. As opinions have become polarised, the amount of venom and hatred being spewed out on so-called social media has become ridiculous.

Take, for example, the delightful Caitlin Moran who took out from her usual hobby of sneering at Wolverhampton to use the "C-word" to denounce anybody who did not vote the same way as her. Nice. And people I have known for years, otherwise sensible people with responsible jobs, have taken to insulting those who don't agree with them in highly-charged rants. And with a few taps on a smart-phone or computer, friendships which have endured for decades are soured forever.

Now all this stuff is out the way – for a few weeks at least – it really is time for everybody to calm down and get a sense of perspective. We are lucky to live in a democracy where we have a number of different, relatively benign parties to choose from. No political opponents means no democracy, and we all know where that leads.

Oh, and no opposing team means no football match either. Not that some fans would actually notice.



WHEN I first heard that the old Wolverhampton bus depot in Cleveland Road was about to close, my first thoughts were one of sadness. After all, the building – originally the headquarters of the Wolverhampton Tramways Corporation – will be 115 years old this year, and with a little bit of funding would have made a first-rate transport museum that could have attracted thousands of people to the city and given the economy a much-needed lift. Realistically, though, at a time when our existing museums are struggling for survival, that was always going to be a forlorn hope.

However, my gloom was lifted when I drove past the site for the first time, and saw how the demolition had opened up a superb view of the majestic Royal Hospital.

This has the potential to be a fantastic gateway to the city, and the perfect response to those who seem to take pleasure in deriding the area at every available opportunity. Let's hope the opportunity isn't wasted.

□ □ □

ONE of the oldest mantras among seekers of eternal life is 'the whiter your bread, the sooner you're dead'. Researchers in Israel have just reported 'no clinically significant differences' in trials of white bread versus artisan wholemeal sourdough bread. How long before white sugar is hailed as a health food?

MORE reports emerge of Joe Public fighting back against the London Bridge terrorists, and how heartening it is.

It may seem a dangerous choice and is obviously madness if guns are being brandished. But these terrorists are not supermen. They can be defeated. What was lacking among those under attack in the London Bridge atrocity was any sense of cohesion or group loyalty.

We have to get in the mindset where everyone out for the night is part of the same team, the team of civilised values and decency. We

Act as a loyal group and we can foil the terrorists



BBC presenter Evan Davis – honest about attention paid to emails and letters



Anne Reid, left, in Dinnerladies – one of the funniest moments in sitcoms



Peter Sallis in Last of the Summer Wine – the star has died at a ripe old 96

Don't waste time complaining to BBC

NOW the General Election is over, you can bet that thousands of the We Woz Robbed tendency will be blaming everything on bias in the media. If you're thinking of complaining to the BBC, save your breath.

INSTEAD, heed these words from the BBC presenter Evan Davis on how much attention the Beeb pays to the thousands of emails and letters it receives accusing it of political bias.

Speaking at the Hay Festival a few days ago, Davis declared: "All the time we get those. And honestly, no-one at the BBC takes those kinds of things into account.

"Maybe people at the very top of the BBC do, I don't know. Maybe they do. But none of the people who are making programmes do." Thanks for being so honest, Mr Davis. Now, can I have my £147 back?

I WROTE recently about how medical advice and health tips are regarded as holy writ one minute and medieval gibberish the next.

One of the oldest mantras among seekers of eternal life is 'the whiter your bread, the sooner you're dead'. Researchers in Israel have just reported 'no clinically significant differences' in trials of white bread versus artisan wholemeal sourdough bread. How long before white sugar is hailed as a health food?

SO farewell, Peter Sallis, the Last of the Summer Wine star who has died at a ripe old 96.

Roy Clarke, creator of the long-running comedy, says he always gave Sallis the best lines. But did he? Truthfully, does any script writer know which are the best lines until they are actually spoken?

TAKE that magical moment from Dinnerladies when one upmarket office worker approaches Jean (Anne Reid) at the canteen counter and asks: 'What would happen if I were to order a herbal tea?' "Nothing," replies Jean.

On paper, Victoria Wood's script is not even amusing. But delivered by Reid, the single word 'nothing' is one of the funniest moments in sitcoms – the verbal equivalent of Del Boy falling through the hatch in the pub counter.

I RECALL a colleague who, many years ago,

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



had sight of the script of a Morecambe & Wise Christmas Special before it was broadcast. He said there was not a single funny line in it – until Eric and Ernie got their hands on it. The magic is in the delivery, and Peter Sallis worked the magic wonderfully. (Mind you, Gromit got all the best stunts).

THE owners of Hamerton Zoo in Cambridgeshire have decided not to destroy the tiger that killed its keeper, Rosa King, on May 29.

That seems a wise decision. You can't kill a tiger simply for being a tiger.

The issue here seems to be that, for all her experience with big cats, Rosa regarded the tigers as her friends.

AS the era of self-driving cars approaches, Amanda Blanc, head of the insurance giant Axa UK, predicts that some people born this year may never be required to pass a driving test.

Frankly, it sometimes seems that half of those using the roads never did.

ANYWAY, the Daily Telegraph, reporting Blanc's views, takes the line that premiums 'will likely plunge in line with lower accident rates'.

Does anyone actually believe this? For years the insurance industry has been promising lower premiums but the only way is up.

They are having a laugh, which may explain why most of the celebrities appearing in insurance adverts are comedians.

I BOUGHT a pair of sunglasses. They came on a card with a photo of a muscular, suntanned chap posing with a mountain bike. Clearly, these shades are designed for rugged use and the open road.

On the back of the card the small print declared that although they conformed with the EU regulations, they are 'not suitable for driving and road use'. Purely for posing.



TALKING POINT

Getting old can prove to be a real test of time

I SHOULD have been grateful, reassured maybe, when the invitation came in the post. What I should not have been, I realise, was quite so insulted.

It was vanity really. Another brutal reminder that I am getting closer and closer to the top of the hill and the time was fast approaching that I would be over it.

And the source of this unwarranted indignation? A letter inviting me to undergo breast screening.

'Only middle aged women get routine testing don't they', I protest out loud.

When I actually read the accompanying letter I discover that younger women, those in their 40s, are now also being invited for screening. A better person than I might have appreciated a small piece of much-needed NHS funding coming their way.

It is a good thing, I know it is and could undoubtedly save a life. Ultimately I was relieved having undergone the screening and had the results, as no doubt were my loved ones.

But it seems we are age defined by the tests we face. Benjamin Franklin may have been right about the certainty of death and taxes – but he forgot to mention tests.

Our lives, and most certainly our futures, are defined by tests.

Testing begins from the womb with every expectant mum undergoing a series of nerve-wracking examinations.

As a baby and toddler, there are hearing tests, speaking tests, weight checks and regular trips to the health visitor.

Then there is school – spelling tests, SATs, mocks, GCSEs, A-levels and more – before university or apprenticeships.

After years in education, with regular examinations and all the stress of academia, we would like to think we can put the tests behind us.

But if the world of work doesn't throw a few examinations at us, there are then the health tests.

There are eye tests, cholesterol tests, blood pressure, smears (shudder), then breast screening and prostate examinations (shudder).

These are just some of the routine tests, which increase with age and become more and more invasive.

Fortunately, the older we get, after years of being poked, prodded and scanned, we lose our inhibitions.

No woman can be prudish after the indignity of child birth – however 'beautiful' an experience it may be, private it most certainly is not.

And at least these tests tend to be over fairly quickly and relatively painlessly, unlike the trials of the young. Would any of us like to go back to swotting for A-levels or face taking our driving test again?

So, while these are testing times for us all, maybe we should all simply be happy with every test we pass, however old we are.

DIANE DAVIES

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We make it

Inensitive attitude to the homeless

I AM astonished at the smug and insensitive attitude of your correspondent B Williams (Roads Not Homeless Is Priority, Letters, June 1).

How those less fortunate than ourselves are treated is a mark of a civilised society, and it is clear that the rise in homelessness is the consequence of tighter finances in family budgets and reduced benefits.

Why would anyone choose this? It could happen to anyone, even B Williams!

How this equates with your corre-

Who calls the shots at Wolves?

WHO is running Wolves? Is it Fosun or Jorge Mendes?

Fosun may have bought the club but it seems that Mendes is calling the shots and telling them who they should have as head coach. Again, like when Zenga was appointed, surprise surprise it's one of his clients.

Last year he was instrumental in bringing several players to Wolves, the majority of which were not good enough for League 2 football never mind the Championship.

Now they also have a new coach who, like Zenga, has no experience of English football. No doubt Mendes will again offer players to Wolves who are his clients even though they have no experience of English football. If last year's experience is anything to go by they will not be good enough either. Promotion to the Premier League I fear is a pipe dream but relegation to League One a possibility.

W J JONES
Dudley

I MUST take issue with Martin Jones comments about the Asda car park in Sedgley.

Firstly, the Asda store will be an asset to the Sedgley community. The company have created eighty new jobs and are very supportive of the local community.

The number plate recognition system notes the time of arrival together with the front number plate and, on departure, the rear number plate is noted at the time of departure. This allows shoppers to use the car park for up to two hours doing their shopping in the store, which for most should be adequate.

What Mr Jones fails to mention that these community organisations all have their own parking facilities. The Asda car park is for shoppers within the store.

ROBERT HILL
Sedgley

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Not fair to criticise Asda over car park

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Please end our hell over missing Natalie, say family

THE half-sister of missing Natalie Putt has begged a mysterious source of new information over the disappearance to get back in contact with police, and 'end the family's hell'.

Her plea came just days after Natalie's father, David Putt, broke his 10-year silence over her disappearance, saying he is desperate for answers in a case that has 'ruined his life'.

Natalie's sister Rebecca Coggins was alerted by police last week over a new search for evidence in a graveyard in Upper Gornal, not far from where Natalie was last seen 14 years ago.

A day's waiting followed for the 40-year-old and her family before police called to tell her the search had been called off after an examination of human remains from four graves had brought no answers to Natalie's disappearance.

Call

But officers received a call from someone in a phone box with more information. The caller provided the same name as two other people for the person allegedly responsible for Natalie's death. The call was from a public phone in Lake Street, around half a mile from the cemetery where exhumations took place.

The 17-year-old new mother was last seen walking to shops from her home in 2003.

Police are now urging the caller to get back in contact as they review the information received over the week.

Mrs Coggins, who lives in Nottingham, said: 'We are utterly devastated. It makes me sick to think someone who knows something has not yet shared everything they know.'

'That person needs to come forward. We must end this, for good or for bad. I can't handle this anymore. They need to do the right thing and contact the police. End our family's hell once and for all.'

Mrs Coggins was joined by her sister Lowri



David Putt has called for information about the disappearance of his daughter Natalie, who vanished 14 years ago, when she was 17

at her home during the wait for news. They lit candles and surrounded themselves with pictures of Natalie.

The search at Ruiton Cemetery was thought to have been sparked by information received on the back of Natalie's picture being shown on Britain's Got Talent during the Missing People Choir's performance.

Mrs Coggins said: 'We've all been on a rollercoaster of emotions. We need answers, now. How can we move on, she is my sister, I need to know what has happened.'

Natalie was last seen leaving her family home in Upper Gornal to go to the shops. She had an 11-week-old baby, Rhys, when she disappeared aged 17. She would be 31 now.

Natalie's father, David, who lives in Wolverhampton, has also called for 'closure', saying he fears he may die before the truth is discovered over Natalie's disappearance.

Mr Putt, aged 60, said: 'I've always hoped for the best, I've always hoped she would appear again. But this latest search has hit me hard, because now I'm thinking the worst.'

'I still pray she is alive but I just need to find out one way or another. I need the closure. It has been 14-and-a-half years, and it has ruined my life.'

Bricklayer Mr Putt was with Natalie at a pub in Sedgley on the afternoon before she went missing.

Mr Putt said: 'If I saw her now I'd give her a clip around the ear and then give her a hug.'

'She was a bubbly person, the life and soul of the party. She was a pain in the butt sometimes, but I loved her.'

Supermarket is asking to extend hours

SUPERMARKET bosses accused of flouting opening times are hoping to keep their Netherton store open for longer under new plans.

But a councillor is spearheading a campaign to stop Lidl opening for an extra two hours each day.

Complaints to Dudley Council include reports of lorries 'thundering' onto the shop's car park at 5am and then leaving their engines running, waking residents.

Councillor Elaine Taylor, who represents Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews ward, said: 'I sent a letter objecting to the plans on behalf of residents. We need business and want to encourage business but Lidl has to adhere to the conditions put on them.'

The Lidl supermarket in Halesowen Road, was built in 2006, after an industrial building was demolished.

It originally opened between 8am and 8pm on weekdays. This was extended by one hour to 8am until 9pm in 2009. Conditions imposed by the council stated the business should not operate outside these hours.

Councillor Taylor said that residents have complained that lorries are accessing the site in the early hours of the morning.

Lidl has now submitted a planning application asking for permission for the shop to open between 7am and 10pm on any day of the week.

Dance music fans are to celebrate DJ's life

MORE than 50 DJs and musicians will perform at a drum and bass dance night held in memory of a DJ who died aged 31.

Adam Tombs was well known on the club scene in the Black Country with his High Voltage nights. The final High Voltage event, billed as 'Toomz' Last Dance', will be at The Bell in Market Street, Stourbridge, on June 30. Entry before 11pm is £3 and £5 after, for British Heart Foundation.



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Final farewell to 'best mother and brother'

MOVING tributes were paid to an 'inspirational' mother and 'wonderful' son as hundreds said a final farewell to Stourbridge stabbing victims Tracey and Pierce Wilkinson.

The funeral of mother and son was held at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford last week.

Tracey, aged 50, and Pierce, 13, were killed after being stabbed at their home on Greyhound Lane, Stourbridge, on March 30. The attack left husband and father Peter Wilkinson, 47, badly injured.

Lydia Wilkinson, 18, who was away at Bristol university on the day, delivered a heartfelt tribute to her mother and brother during the service.

She said Tracey, a British ballroom dancing champion, was an 'inspirational' person and her 'best friend', someone with a 'beautiful soul'.

She continued: "She had qualities I had never seen in anyone else. I can't believe my closest friend has been taken from me."

Achieved

"She achieved so much but her greatest achievement to me was being the perfect mother and friend."

Lydia said Pierce's favourite pastime was bringing the family together to watch films, particularly Star Wars and Lord of the Rings, adding that the youngster was a great fan of technology, and would have likely gone on to be an engineer.

"He was the best brother I could ask for, so happy. He was a wonderful friend," she added.

Rectory Road was closed as more than 300 people made their way to the service. One boy wore a football shirt with 'Pierce' on the back. Kidderminster Male Choir sang inside the packed church, including the song Angels.

Dozens of pupils in uniform from



Pierce Wilkinson



Tracey Wilkinson



Redhill School, where Pierce attended, joined guests and eight greyhounds with handlers from Hall Green Retired Greyhound Trust, where the family adopted their beloved pets from.

Peter and Lydia stood hands clasped side-by-side reading the messages on flowers left by well-wishers.

Roy Wiffen, a family friend and god-father to Pierce, gave an impassioned eulogy saying, "We all know why we

are here and we all know we shouldn't be here" closing his speech with 'now we wait for justice' to loud applause. Rev Stephen Agnew in his address drew comparisons between their tragic deaths and those in recent terror attacks. A private cremation was held.

Aaron Barley, aged 23, of no fixed address, has admitted attempting to murder Peter Wilkinson and is yet to enter pleas regarding the two deaths.

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Mayday call as an aircraft plunges 15,000ft over town

A PILOT made a Mayday call to air traffic control after his plane, carrying more than 20 passengers, lost cabin pressure over the Black Country and dropped 15,000ft.

The Bombardier DHC-8-402 plunged from 25,000 ft (4.7 miles) to 10,000 ft over Dudley to stabilise the plane, after a faulty valve caused a loss of pressure inside the aircraft.

The aircrew donned oxygen masks and informed the 23 passengers about the problem on the turboprop airliner.

An investigation was launched by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch into the event which investigators describe as a 'serious incident'.

The aircraft became stable at 10,000 feet and the Mayday call was then cancelled. The plane was flying from Manchester to Jersey when the frightening incident occurred.

A total of 27 people were on board, including the four aircrew, during the incident on December 8 at 07.18am.

The pilot continued flying at 10,000 ft until reaching Jersey, after clearance was given by air traffic control. The plane made a safe landing.

The co-pilot had been alerted to the loss in cabin pressure after warning signs came on and warned the pilot before the Mayday call began. The warning signs remained on for seven minutes and 48 seconds before the pilot had dropped to 10,000 ft, more than half of the initial altitude.

Both the pilot and co-pilot described feeling 'slightly lightheaded' as the events unfolded, the report found. It resulted in them suffering hypoxia, a lack of oxygen.

On landing the co-pilot initially used autopilot but switched to manual as he felt the descent taking too long. This accelerated descent from 2,000 feet-per-minute to 3,500 feet-per-minute.

The faulty outflow valve was replaced and the aircraft returned to service.

Beach babes welcome at Under-5s Day

HIMLEY Beach is returning to the Dudley area to bring seaside-style fun for toddlers.

The Under-5s Day in the park grounds of Himley Hall on Friday, June 23, from 10am to 3pm, will also feature baby ballet, a children's maze and fun fair, donkey rides, Rugby Tots training, storytellers, face painting and a mini zoo.

A spokesperson said: "This year's Under-5s Day will be bigger and better than ever with a full five hours of jam-packed entertainment aimed at children under the age of 5."

A family ticket is £14 (two adults and two children) or £4 each (£2.50 for under-2s). Parking is free and dogs are not admitted (apart from assistance dogs). For more information call the hall on (01384) 817817.

Meanwhile, a Teenage Market featuring young entrepreneurs and entertainers is being held at the hall courtyard on Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

Everything's right when it's wrong



Manic comedy – the cast of hit show *The Play That Goes Wrong*, coming to Birmingham Rep next week

THE West End's Olivier Award-winning comedy hit *The Play That Goes Wrong* is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre next week.

The Play That Goes Wrong is a remarkable rags-to-riches story, the play started its life at a London fringe venue in 2013 with only four paying members of the public at the first performance. The show has since played to more than half a million and has won a raft of awards in London and

New York, and is currently enjoying its third year in the West End.

It is also licensed to 33 countries with productions playing in Tokyo, Paris, Budapest and soon to open in Rome, Warsaw, Shanghai, Cape Town and Melbourne.

Co-written by Mischief Theatre company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, *The Play That Goes Wrong* is packed with finely-tuned farce and slapstick.

The play introduces 'The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society' who are attempting to put on a 1920s murder mystery but, as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong does, as the accident-prone thespians battle on against all the odds to get to their final curtain call.

It is staged at Birmingham Rep from Monday to Friday, June 24. See birmingham-rep.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Pervert's jail term is cut by appeal judges

A SEX offender who preyed on women on trains and buses has had his prison sentence cut by appeal judges.

Robert David Osbourne, aged 42, was locked up in September last year for a string of offences against women in the West Midlands.

Osbourne, of Ashenhurst Road, Dudley, took photos up women's skirts after sitting close to them on public transport.

The former tree surgeon admitted four sexual assaults and a count of assault by beating and was jailed for four years at Birmingham Crown Court. Considered 'dangerous' to women, he was also ordered to serve an additional four years on extended licence after release.

Disturbing

But three senior judges at the Court of Appeal in London ruled the sentence was too tough.

Allowing Osbourne's appeal, Judge John Wait instead imposed a jail term of three years and two months and also quashed the extended licence.

"The offences, while very disturbing and distressing for the victims, were not of themselves the most serious," he said.

The court heard Osbourne has a long list of previous convictions for sexual offending.

A sexual harm prevention order, banning Osbourne from carrying a camera or camera phone in public, was made to last indefinitely.

Roaring back to the 40s at living museum

THE Black Country Living Museum is taking people on a nostalgic journey back to wartime Britain with vintage vehicles and people in period costume.

The Tipton Road attraction hosts its largest 1940s Weekend on July 15 and 16. Call 0121 520 8054 to book tickets.



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Award for cancer support volunteers



Celebration time for White House Cancer Support's manager, Caroline Webb, at the Ednam Road HQ in Dudley

STAFF at White House Cancer Support (WHCS), based in Dudley, are celebrating after gaining a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The award, which was created in 2002 to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, recognises excellence in activities carried out by community groups. It is the highest award given to volunteer organisations across the UK.

WHCS manager Caroline Webb said: "This award showcases the hard work, commitment and support from people, past and present, who have given their time since the organisation was set up 33 years ago.

"Their contributions are truly appreciated by WHCS, as without such help we could not fully provide our current service.

"We are indebted to those people who selflessly take on their volunteer role in support of others."

Vision

The organisation was founded in 1984 by cancer patient Elizabeth Harris. Her vision was for a support network to benefit families, friends and carers and saw the team grow from a weekly self-help group in the lounge of her own home, to the current premises

in Ednam Road with offices, counselling suites and treatment rooms.

There are also several branch groups across the Black Country, offering a range of activities.

The charity is set to receive the award from the office of the Lord Lieutenant, West Midlands later this year.

White House Cancer Support, in Ednam Road, Dudley is a drop-in centre for people affected by cancer.

The centre is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm, and it offers group activities, including art and crafts, exercise and relaxation.

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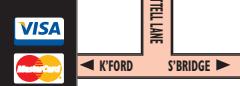
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Chrissie Wellington, left, and Zena Wooldridge at the new gym

BRITISH triathlete and four-time Ironman World Champion, Chrissie Wellington OBE, has officially opened 'Chrissie's Gym' at Birmingham's new Sport and Fitness building.

Chrissie's Gym was named following a public vote launched in 2014 to name the pioneering new gym facility at the University of Birmingham's Sport and Fitness building. The state-of-the-art facility features 200 pieces of gym equipment by Olympic supplier, Technogym, benefiting from advanced, integrated wellness app facility to track progress, interactive screens for improved entertainment and motivation, and 25 pieces of inclusive equipment to enable members with physical impairments to train effectively and comfortably. Environmental-conscious equipment has also been embedded to include low energy treadmills and self-powered skillmills.

Chrissie, who is the Global Lead for Health and Wellbeing for Park Run, attended an official dedication ceremony at the gym on Monday to celebrate with staff and students from Sport and Fitness, as well as local community sport representatives and a number of alumni and donors who generously supported the development of the new building, which opened to the public on May 22.

Suspect in killing may finally be extradited

A MAN wanted for the murder of a pizza shop owner in the Black Country could finally be extradited to the UK later this year – two years on from his death.

Masoud Esmailian, aged 46, was found dead by police at his home in Montgomery Walk, West Bromwich, on August 30, 2015.

Now, 21-year-old Andrei Ilie, who fled the UK, could be extradited if released on parole in Romania this September.

Ilie, who is serving a three-year prison sentence for two non-related matters, was first arrested on suspicion of murder in the Arges County of Romania in September 2015.

Collect

It was alleged he had left the UK just days after Mr Esmailian's death and was known to him, a pre-inquest hearing at Black Country Coroners Court heard.

Detective Inspector Justin Spanner told the hearings authorities would be put in place to collect and charge Ilie once he is released.

He said: "In September 2015 we were granted an European Arrest War-

rant, but it was discovered that Andrei Ilie had been arrested and charged in Romania for two other matters. Because he was kept in under their laws and provisions we were unable to interview him."

DI Spanner added: "Ilie is due in front of parole board this September. If he is not let out on parole then it will be September 2018 that he will finish his sentence."

"Either way authorities would be put in place to collect him upon release."

A post mortem confirmed the cause of death was a stab wound to the chest.

Senior Coroner Zafar Sidique adjourned the inquest until October. He said he

would also be writing a letter of request if Ilie was not released on parole.

DI Spanner added: "Ilie is due in front of parole board this September. If he is not let out on parole then it will be September 2018 that he will finish his sentence."

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That is swan good photo from valley



The lovely portrait of a family of swans in this picture taken by Steve Higgins during a trip to Sandwell Valley

A FAMILY of swans have been pictured enjoying a relaxing swim along the waters of a beauty spot.

The adults and cygnets were snapped at Priory Woods nature reserve in Sandwell Valley by grandfather Steve Higgins, aged 61, from Sutton Coldfield.

Steve took up photography after retiring four years ago and says the arrival of his grandchildren spurred him on to develop his skills.

"I got this camera as a retirement

present so I thought I better plan to use it to take photographs of my grandchildren," he said.

He used a Canon digital camera to take the shot with a 70-300mm lens.

Steve's photograph shows seven cygnets swimming in-between two adults along the calm waters as the sun beats down.

He likes to focus on wildlife and the natural environment.

Steve combines his passion for photography with exercise, where he will

ride to places on his bike to take shots.

It took him around an hour to travel to Sandwell from his home before he took this photograph on June 4.

"I take the camera with me when I go out. It inspires me and helps me to keep fit," said Steve.

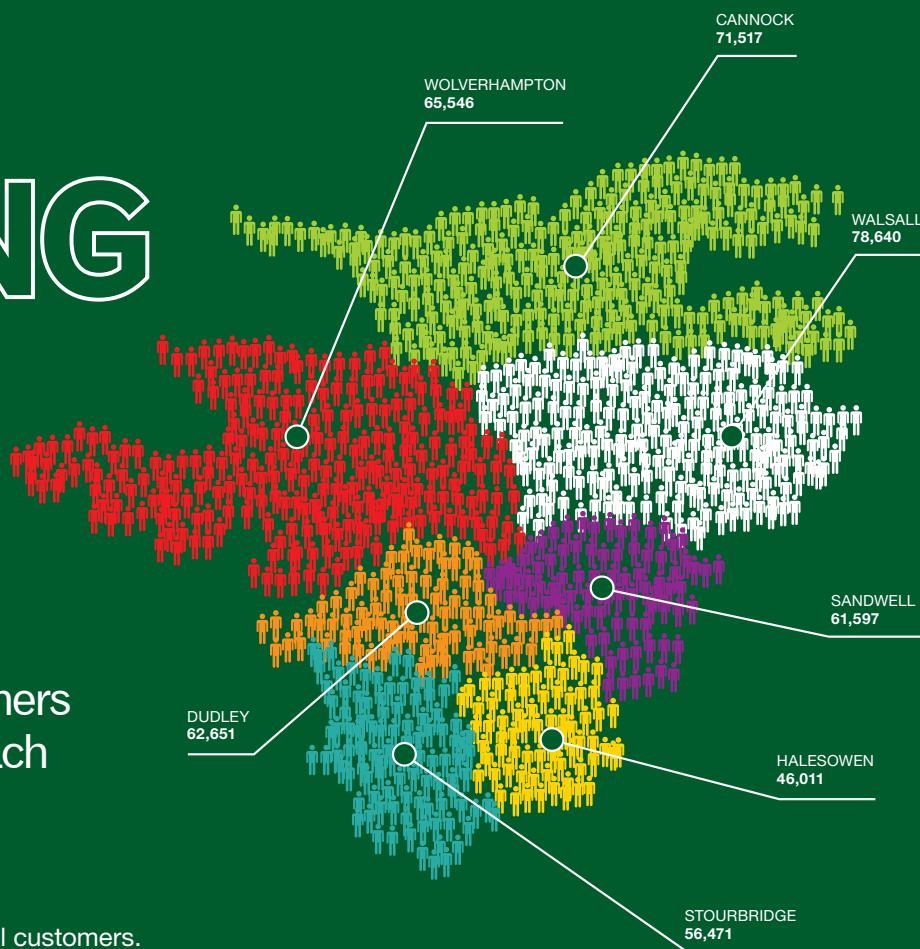
"To get to Sandwell Valley, I cycle up to Spaghetti Junction and cycle down the canal path to Sandwell Valley which takes me around an hour.

"I put my camera in a bag pack and see where I end up."

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Youngsters step up to ballet challenge

GLIDING, floating and twirling, more than 100 youngsters took to the stage in their bid to perform with the English Youth Ballet. It was a ballet lesson with a difference for the dancers, aged 8-18, who performed in auditions at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Amongst the judges was director, Janet Lewis MBE, who explained that this is the 19th year of the English Youth Ballet (EYB).

Dancers were hoping to get through to the next round, where they will rehearse and perform with principle dancers.

Potential

Here, they will get the chance to perform in the double production of the Nutcracker Suite and Ballet Etudes at the Grand Theatre from September 29-30.

Ben Garner, the marketing manager of EYB said the company was "looking for dancers with potential who enjoy dancing."

He added: "We try to help them to relax when they come to audition, because like them, we are human. We care about them as dancers, not numbers."

"It is a great opportunity. When they have worked with us, they get the bug and it confirms what they want to do as a career, but even people who don't get through praise how good the auditions are. It's all about the experience."



Auditions for the English Youth Ballet's productions at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

'Slavery' claim by protesting taxi drivers

TAXI drivers fighting deregulation legislation which has seen their income plummet have described their working conditions as '21st century slavery.'

The Wolverhampton Private Hire Drivers Association (WPHDA), which also represents drivers from Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley, claim they have had to drastically drop prices to hold on to customers in the face of increasing rival competition.

Fares between Wolverhampton to Birmingham had fallen by a quarter, from £25 to around £17-£18 following the arrival of taxi-hailing firms such as Uber, they claim.

Ebrahim Suleiman, WPHDA chairman, said drivers were effectively earning £3.50 an hour after taking out expenses. "I may as well pack up and work in a factory, or Sainsbury's, at least then I will get the minimum wage."

Pressure

"This is 21st century slavery. We have bills to pay and families to look after like everyone else."

He warned that Black Country private hire drivers would liaise with colleagues in Manchester and London to 'put the pressure' on politicians at both local and national level. At a recent meeting at Dunstall Park Community association they called for Parliament to be lobbied on their behalf.

Many members and elders of the local Muslim community also attended the meeting to give their support. One said Uber was 'killing

Cyber degree one of just three in world

A NEW degree course that explores human interaction with the internet has been launched by the University of Wolverhampton and is only one of three available across the globe.

The MSc in cyberpsychology has been developed to meet the needs of government and industry to understand the psychological ramifications of cyberspace. The course will benefit anyone wishing to pursue a career in industries such as gaming, social media, virtual reality, research and cybersecurity.

Dr Chris Fullwood, reader in Cyberpsychology, said: "We live in an age where our professional and personal lives are increasingly mediated by technology."

Applications are currently being accepted for places on the MSc, to be taught by leading academics and is supported by the University of Wolverhampton's Cyberpsychology Research Group (www.wlv.ac.uk/CRUW).

Events celebrating the work of carers

AROUND 30 local charity and voluntary groups are taking part in a family fun day to celebrate Volunteers and Carers Week on Saturday.

The event, from 11am to 2pm, at the DY1 venue in Stafford Street, Dudley, will include lots of arts and crafts activities and a visit by a fire engine.

The carers' network will also hold its carers' cafe at Queen's Cross Network, Wellington Road today (Thursday) from 10.30am to 1pm, when carers will be able to find out more about the support available to them.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Carers across the borough do an amazing job caring for their loved ones and this week is all about giving something back to them. We want to give carers the opportunity to talk to people and share experiences and make sure they are informed about what support is available to them."

Other events include a carers' information session at the Health Hub at Russells Hall Hospital from 10am to 4pm today and Dudley Council for Voluntary Services' tea and chat tomorrow (Friday) from 10am to noon.

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Concern that £27m light rail project could cut town off

DOUBTS have been raised about a multi-million pound light rail project that is set to create more than 200 jobs in Dudley.

Dudley's UKIP leader Paul Brothwood says he fears the creation of the very light rail innovation centre could hinder the town's chances of having improved rail services in the future.

He said the scheme was 'untested, unproven and costly' and that he would not be prepared to support it if concerns about future rail services turn out to be correct.

'Very difficult decision' to close diner

A RETRO-STYLE American diner has shut at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Ed's Easy Diner, which opened in December 2015 creating 32 jobs, is the latest business to close its doors at the centre in the past 12 months, following BHS, Early Learning Centre, Tiger and Sainsbury's.

A spokesman for Intu, which owns the centre, said: "We're disappointed to hear that Ed's Diner has closed down. This is a commercial decision taken by Ed's Diner. We wish their staff well."

Sam Wignell, brand director at Ed's Easy Diner said: "This has been a very difficult decision, and we are currently discussing with staff, the potential of alternative positions within the brand."

Meanwhile, last week it was announced that the former Sainsbury's supermarket at Merry Hill is to become one of the biggest Next stores in the UK.

The £27.8 million innovation centre, which would be used for the construction of lightweight rail vehicles, was given the green light by the council last year.

However, crucial funding for the project is still needed and the change in leadership at Dudley Council has now put the scheme back in the spotlight.

Councillor Brothwood says he will be holding discussions with new council leader Patrick Harley about his concerns. The Conservatives took power at Dudley Council in May with support from UKIP.

National

The very light rail site is bounded by Tipton Road to the east and Castle Hill railway bridge to the south. The site was last used as British Rail freightliner depot but was closed during the late 1980s. Before that it was the site of Dudley's main railway station, which closed in the mid 1960s.

Councillor Brothwood said he was eager for the track to be left available in the event of rail services being launched from Dudley.

He said: "My concern is part of the track it is using could affect National Rail coming back to Dudley. It seems silly to use all that just for 3km of test track. While it is good to have innovation, I don't want it to be at the expense of National Rail returning."

Fun is free at Armed Forces Day



Preparations are well under way for Armed Forces Day in the grounds of Himley Hall later this month

FINAL preparations are being put in place for this year's Armed Forces Day event at Himley Hall next weekend.

The free family day out is being held in association with Black Country Housing Group and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

It will be held in the grounds of Himley Hall on Sunday, June 25, from 11am to 5pm.

Highlights will be a Spitfire flypast by the RAF Battle of Britain Flight

Memorial team at 11.45am and the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge presentation to veterans later in the afternoon.

In the main arena, visitors will be wowed by the spectacular Beating Retreat, which will bring together marching bands, standard bearers and serving personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force for a military tradition dating back centuries.

The arena will also host a gun run drill by the Military Preparation College for Training, a drill and banner display by 347 Dudley Squadron and a performance by local singing duo, The Land Girls, who will bring the event to a close leading a sing-along of songs from the 1940s.

There will also be paintballing provided by Dudley Army Cadet Force and an archery range, provided by Kingswinford Air Cadets squadron.

Call for signs to promote M5 diversion

HIGHWAYS bosses have been criticised for not putting up enough diversion signs to ease traffic flow around a major roadworks scheme on the M5 in the Black Country.

The chief executive of Sandwell Council has written to Highways England to complain about the lack of warnings for drivers between junctions one and two, where an 18-month roadworks project is taking place.

Council leader Steve Eling said more signs need to be on display further down the motorway to allow drivers the opportunity of using the M42 or M6 instead.

The speed limit has been reduced to 40mph on the stretch between West Bromwich and Oldbury due to work on the Oldbury viaduct.

But major problems are anticipated when the maximum speed drops to 30mph and traffic is reduced to two lanes in either direction this summer.

Councillor Eling said: "They still haven't put the signage up that they said they would. Jan Britton, the chief executive, has written to Highways England."

Highways England said signage will be in place when that part of the project gets under way.

Highways England project manager Alastair Warnes said: "We're taking major steps to encourage motorists to follow alternative routes."

Forum for views on mental health services

A MENTAL health trust serving the Black Country will host a forum for people to share their views.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will hold the event on Thursday, June 22. The mental health forum, which takes place quarterly, will be at Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Road, Walsall, WS3 1AG, 11am to 1pm. Lunch will be provided. Email communication@dwmh.nhs.uk or call (01384) 325015.

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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

Special thank you for Beacon volunteers



Deputy Mayor of Wolverhampton Bilton's Councillor Phil Page with some of the staff and volunteers at the Beacon Centre

ALMOST 300 volunteers who support a Black Country sight-loss charity have been honoured for their dedication at a special ceremony.

Some 290 volunteers ranging in age from 16 to over 90 have provided an impressive 50,000 hours supporting the Beacon Centre over the past year. Their roles include retail support, day centre assistance, technology help, visiting people at home and administration work.

The volunteers' service was recognised at an afternoon tea at the centre's Sedgley base.

Beacon Centre has been helping people with sight loss for more than 140 years.

The tea was held on June 6 as part of national volunteer week, and aimed

to showcase the valuable work done by volunteers.

Several awards were handed out including volunteer of the year, which went to Loraine Furness who has been with the charity since 2012. She helps out twice a week with tasks such as fundraising, lunch clubs and other community events.

The Stourbridge volunteer of the year was Pat Stenson who has volunteered at the day centre since 2011, helping with lots of activities.

Customers

Beacon's retail volunteer of the year was Stephen Keenan, who has sight loss himself and has been helping in the Halesowen shop since November

2015. Charity bosses say he loves talking to customers and goes that extra mile by raising money via raffles.

Beacon Centre's volunteer co-ordinator Rachel Shaw said: "All our volunteers are invaluable, we could not do our work without their help.

"They really enrich our work by bringing new ideas, giving generous amount of time and enthusiasm.

"We are grateful to all our volunteers for choosing to dedicate time to the charity and would like to say a very big thank you for all that they do."

"We are always looking for more people to offer their time and commitment with a genuine desire to help - so if you are interested please do get in touch."

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Weston Park has opened its cellar to visitors, giving a stark contrast to the finery and beautiful artwork of the rooms upstairs

Weston Park reveals secrets of its cellar

By Mat Growcott

IT'S a secret world underneath a grand house, filled with relics hundreds of years old – and now it has opened to the public for the first time.

Weston Park has opened its cellar to visitors, giving them stark contrast to the finery and beautiful artwork of the rooms upstairs.

Down a spiral staircase or behind black iron gates at the back of the house, the cellars would originally have been used to store barrels. The narrow hallways are winding, cold – almost damp – and the roof far lower than the lofty rooms upstairs, but it contains some of the best hidden secrets of Weston.

Among them a wooden arch, believed to be the oldest part of the estate dating back centuries, to before the current house was built.

But guests will also get to see the state-of-the-art underfloor heating system and a billiard room fit for any gentleman.

"We wanted to show something a bit different to the public," PR co-ordinator Megan Haddaway said.

"We opened up some of the other areas of the house last year for some behind the scenes tour, which showed the public some of the bedrooms and servants' quarters.

"We decided to take that one step further and open up the cellars to show them something that's a bit of a contrast to the formality downstairs.

"It would have been in the cellar that the family stored all their posh wines and beers, and it's very much on the side of the kitchens. It wouldn't have been used by the people who lived in the house so it's a very different aspect of the estate."

Cracked

Compared to the careful decoration of the upstairs rooms, the cellars are anything but easy on the eye.

The old wooden timber used to store barrels show the signs of carrying decades of weight and the stone that makes up the floor is scuffed and cracked.

But it tells a different part of Weston Park's story, a story going back to when it was mentioned in the Domesday book nearly 600 years before the current estate was built in 1671.

Megan said: "There are original features downstairs which our curator Gareth Williams believes dates back to the medieval period. They would have dated back to the original hall."

"Upstairs things have been changed and the layouts have differed – downstairs things have stayed the same."

"It's really exciting. A lot of people who come to Weston Park have a strong sense of the family and the history of the house. They even know which paintings they're expecting to see. The cellar is something completely different for them."

"They get to see more of the working world that was once part of the house. It's a living house, we still use the cellar today to store things down there."

"It's not defunct. We've tried to get use out of it, but it's just a little bit more special to let the public go down and see it for themselves."

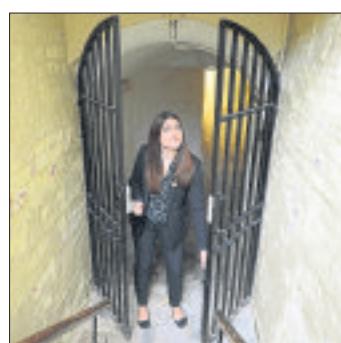
The tour ran twice last week for groups of up to 25 people. Those who attend can pay £5 to



The snooker table in the cellars under the main house at Weston Park



The narrow hallways are cold – almost damp



Megan Haddaway in the cellar at Weston Park

take a look around. Another two tours will take place on July 16 at 12pm and 2pm.

Although it's the first time the public will be able to see it, it has been open to those who rent out Weston Park for events.

That includes access to the billiard room, lined with vintage wines, pillars and red carpets.

Megan said: "People who use the house have it on an exclusive use basis and they're welcome to use any part of the house they please. If they want to use the billiard room they can go down and use it. They like the escapism of going somewhere different and quirky – you wouldn't ex-

pect to see this room down in the cellar."

"It gives that vibe of an old gentlemanly feel, drinking your whisky and playing billiards, which people do like."

Although opening up the cellar will unveil a few more of Weston Park's secrets, there's still more that could be seen in the future.

"We've covered most places around the house, but not everything," Megan said.

"There's always a little bit of mystery left at Weston Park."

For more information about events at the house visit weston-park.com

Could your home affect your health?



Fresh air is great but pollen can come in through open windows

FROM pollen to dust mites, our houses can contain things that trigger allergies and even diseases.

Our homes can get a bad rep during winter – even taking some of the blame for the spread of colds and flu, when everybody's cooped up in close quarters and windows are sealed shut for weeks on end in order to keep the warmth in.

Thank goodness, then, when summer-time rolls around, we can fling those windows open with glee and give everything a good airing.

Unfortunately, this isn't good news for everybody, especially those with allergies and asthma that's triggered by things like pollen.



Cleaning will help control dust mites

Here's what to watch out for at home to stay healthy.

Pollen can come in through open windows

A bane for hay fever sufferers, pollen can also be problematic for some adults and children living with asthma, and while we think of it as something that strikes outdoors, around trees and grass for instance, it can enter our homes too.

"Pollen can be brought into the home by a variety of modes. A common cause is coming in through an open window, which are often opened early in the morning and/or evening, when pollen counts are highest."

"This means pollen can enter rooms and provide a constant stream of aeroallergens (substances that are breathed in that cause a problem to the allergic individual)," says Allergy UK nurse advisor, Holly Shaw.

By Abi Jackson

Drying laundry outdoors can also be an issue

Letting laundry air-dry indoors can be a major contributory factor to damp in homes, which can have a detrimental effect on health, particularly for people with certain allergies and lung conditions.

But while for many of us, the chance to dry clothes outdoors during the warmer months is a welcome relief, this can also be a pollen trap.

"Pollen can be transferred into the home on laundry that's been aired outside," notes Shaw. "In addition, pollen can also be transferred on people (on their clothes, skin and hair) and domestic pets." In other words, people and pets can trapse allergens like pollen inside.

Dust mites thrive in warm conditions

Pollen isn't the sole culprit. Dust mites are among the "most common indoor air allergens", Shaw points out, and they "thrive in warm, humid environments".

Dust mites in the home are most often found in soft furnishings like carpets, bedding, curtains and cushions.

What can you do about it?

If opening the windows is tricky, but letting the house get too warm isn't good either, where does that leave you?

As frustrating as it sounds, there are a number of things you can do to minimise unhealthy home invasions during summer.

"Keeping windows closed and not drying laundry outside during high pollen times, and showering when you return from being outside, will remove pollen from the skin and hair," suggests Shaw.

"Cleaning in the home, including damp dusting and vacuuming, will help control dust mites."

It should be noted this can also cause dust mites to be disturbed, so those with a dust mite allergy may be symptomatic following this.

"Minimising the amount of soft furnishings in the home, keeping beds free from soft toys and cushions and washing bedding above 60 degrees may also help reduce dust mites."

"For items that cannot be washed as easily, pillow or mattress protectors may be useful."

As with any time of year, ensuring your hay fever/allergies and asthma is well-managed generally is also important, so if you're struggling to keep symptoms under control, speak to your GP.

They can advise on medication and any additional things that may help, or investigate whether there's another reason for the flare-ups.



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Scent of roses will aid your wellbeing

HAVING a perfumed garden is an excellent way of improving wellbeing and making your outside space feel even more special.

Not often thought of as a container plant, but an excellent option for small gardens, is the ever popular scented rose.

Roses are easy to grow and will thrive in most pots providing there is good drainage and they are watered regularly. All you need is a sunny location and enough room for a large container and you can transform a patio, terrace or balcony into a floral retreat full of colour and fragrance.

Choosing the right rose is important – compact varieties with a long flowering season grow well in containers – they just need a sturdy, good sized pot to live in full of good quality potting compost. Roses need regular feeding which will increase the amount of blooms they produce and will also improve their resistance to pests, although some roses will require spraying to combat aphids and mildew.

Pruning is essential as it shapes the plant and helps control insects and diseases and it's also important to remove dead heads as this improves flowering over a longer period of time. You should re-pot every two to three years to refresh the soil and if your rose isn't flower as much as it used to then transplant it to a larger container. If you are replacing old roses with new ones, ensure that all the old soil is removed and replaced with fresh.

The Royal Horticultural Society's top five roses for containers are ...

Laura Ford – a patio climber that has lots of small, double, deep yellow flowers and grows up to 3m high

Magic Carpet – a groundcover variety that has pretty, wide, semi-double flowers in mauve, lilac and lavender with a light spicy scent.

Nice Day (pictured) – a patio climbing rose with gorgeously scented coral-pink flowers that bloom repeatedly throughout the summer and autumn and grows to 2m high

Robin Redbreast – a miniature rose with dark green foliage and bright red, single flowers with yellow centres that produces good rosehips in the autumn.

Sweet Dream – a past Rose of the Year short, standard bushy rose that has apricot-peach flowers with masses of petals

For an instant rose garden that you can enjoy throughout the summer buy a selection of different sized pots, plant them with a varieties of roses and then place them together in a group. Simple but stunning.

Sara Milne – The Potted Garden

Are you one of UK's best?

HAVE you got what it takes to be named one of Britain's best gardeners?

Green-fingered enthusiasts from across the country are being urged to compete for one of six Wilko Amateur Gardener Of The Year awards.

The nationwide retailer chain has claimed the the UK is a secret haven of garden enthusiasts – with 88 per cent of residents rating having a nice garden as important, according to a national survey.

Six entrants from across the UK will be picked as category winners, shortlisted by an experienced garden judging panel, including Dominic Cole, president of the Gardens Trust, and award-winning garden designer Andrew Fisher Tomlin, before being selected by a public vote on the Wilko social media channels.

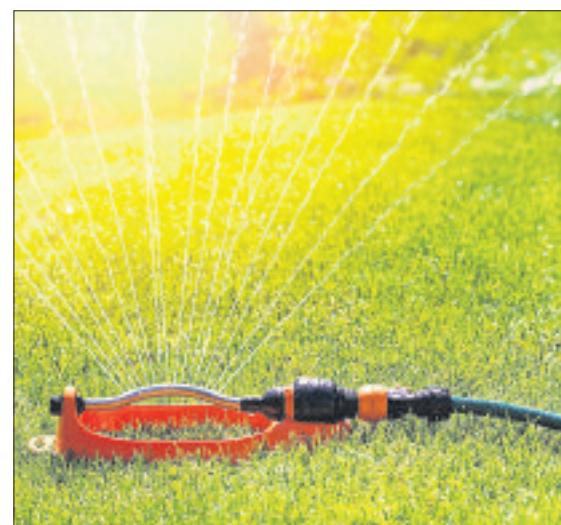
The categories to enter are:

- * Best Allotment
- * Best Garden Design
- * Best Hanging Basket/ Container
- * Best Junior Gardener
- * Best Wildlife Garden
- * Best Upcycled Garden

The competition is open until June 30 and the winners of each category will receive a £100 Wilko gift card and trophy. One of the six finalists will be crowned overall Wilko Amateur Gardener Of The Year 2017 and receive an additional £250 Wilko gift card.

Email an image of your garden to wilkogardener@wilkobrizenpr.com including name, email address, telephone number and the category you wish to be considered for. Finalists will be informed on July 21.

Finally for those with patience and space



It's a good idea to use a sprinkler to water your lawn

Lawns take a battering – but help is out there

SUMMER is the time when your lawn gets a hammering – from kids, garden party guests and pets. So, when the heat is on, how do you keep your grass looking great?

"After a particularly mild winter, where weeds may have taken hold in spring, warmer temperatures from June to August affect how and what you should do to maintain your lawn," says Steve Taylor, technical lawn expert and adviser to Green Thumb, a lawn treatment service.

He offers this simple guide for those wanting their lawns to look in peak condition:

MAINTENANCE

This spring has been dry and cool and we are now into summer – now is not a good time to be doing much in the way of the aeration and scarification. Cut your lawn correctly by not mowing below 25mm in summer.

WATERING

Adapt your watering schedule to the weather. If you do not water the grass, it will dehydrate and a weak lawn will leave an opportunity for weeds and all the wrong types of grass to germinate and grow in it. Water using a sprinkler, moving it about the lawn from place to place

leaving it in each area for approximately 10 minutes but no longer. If the lawn has slight tinges of brown, then get watering now.

MOWING

The most common mistakes concern cutting height and when not to cut. When cutting in spring, keep the height at not less than 25mm (1in). In warmer, drier periods raise the height of the cut to 40mm (1.5in), but if it remains really dry and watering is difficult, then up to 50mm (2in). When the grass is not growing and is becoming brittle, do not cut it. If the lawn has become dry, watering is essential if you want to keep it looking good and you may have to increase your watering program to recover the lawn. Only when you start to see the lawn recover, is it time to restart cutting again.

TREATMENTS

These should be nutrition-based and applied at both the start and towards the end of the summer. By applying an early and late summer treatment, each plant in your lawn will be strengthened to withstand warm conditions and will ensure a healthy and vibrant green coloured lawn for you to enjoy on long summer days.

There's so much colour and inspiration for gardeners

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

"OUR England is a garden" said Rudyard Kipling and there is no greater proof that we are a nation of gardeners than the interest given to the Chelsea Flower Show.

This floral spectacle engages visitors and TV viewers the world over. Away from all of the razzmatazz and in the humbler surroundings of our own gardens there is plenty going on for the ambitious gardener to make the most of what the season has to offer.

It is Iris time in the herbaceous border whether the Irises are tall or short bearded with voluptuous standards and falls that shine like satin they will need a good baking their rhizomes planted shallowly towards the full sun.

More amenable in good garden soil with some moisture and in shade is Iris sibirica which come in shades of blue, pink, purple and white and grow from between 30cm and 90cm. We have many stands of an excellent blue cultivar which I do not know the name of. But it has been divided successfully over several years in the autumn and spring and spread around. Usually the centre of the plant becomes congested with most of the growth on the outside. It is easy to chop it up with a spade and discard the parts that are showing less vigour and replant the rest.

Perennial poppies, Papaver orientalis, are excellent border plants and a good partner for alliums or mingled between late flowers that are still growing. Poppies have petals which always remind me of slightly ruffled tissue paper.

"Beauty of Livermere" has wonderful scarlet petals with a black basal blotch but there are also white, plum and pink cultivars. It is not worth letting them go to seed if you want reliable seedlings as they are easily cross pollinated. They grow from basal foliage and they can become untidy after flowering so cut the whole plant down, leaves and all. It will quickly replace the old leaves with new until the flowers appear next year.

Whether on walls, in borders or shrubberies, Roses are the quintessential English summer flower. I love the climbing rose "Madame Gregoire Staechelin" which has stupendous pink blooms that have a subtle sweet pea scent. It is a shame that it only flowers once but if you partner it with a late flowering clematis then you can enjoy two plants in the same space.

Another excellent climber for a wall or growing into a tree or large shrub are honeysuckles. If left unchecked then they can become rampant though they will respond well to a heavy pruning in winter. If the shrub is large enough then you can happily leave them to their own devices.

Finally for those with patience and space



Honeysuckles are excellent climbers – though they may need pruning during the winter months



Poppies are excellent border plants and come in many different colours. *Mme Gregoire Staechelin* – one of Ross's favourite roses



group of hybrids hailing from North America and bred from *Cornus florida*. *Cornus florida* likes a long hot summer and can sometimes underperform in our cooler summers. It also has an unfortunate habit of clinging onto its leaves in winter though if you have a sunny spot cultivars such as "Rainbow" and "Cherokee Princess" are worth a try.

The best thing about an English summer is that there is something for everybody. And it's not over yet!



A Bournemouth Sunbeam bus on loan



The first single-decker on the Wednesfield route



Passengers getting off Park Lane on the Bushbury route



A preserved Wolverhampton trolley bus in West Park



Trolley buses making their way through Queen Square

Depot that once was home to trolley buses

WITH the recent demolition of the Cleveland Road bus depot, which was built as the home of Wolverhampton's trams, it should not be forgotten that for 44 years it was also home to the town's fleet of trolley buses.

When the original trams lines were beginning to reach the end of their useful life after about 20 years of operation, the corporation's transport department took a look at the new trolley buses which had just been introduced in Birmingham.

They decided that they were a more economic proposition than replacing the tram tracks, and the first of six Tilling-Stevens single-decker trolley buses were put into operation on the Wednesfield route on Oc-

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

tober 29, 1923. The process of ripping out the surface-contact system tram tracks, and replacing them with overhead cables continued on the Bushbury route, and then throughout the town.

Silent

Electricity was supplied by Wolverhampton's own power station in Commercial Road, and by 1931 Wolverhampton had the largest trolley bus system in Great Britain.

It also boasted two of the largest trolley bus manufacturers in the world, Sunbeam, and Guy Motors, both building double-deckers and Guy introducing the first ever six wheel trolley bus.

Trolley buses were swift, si-

lent and non-polluting, and the sight of the conductor leaping off his platform at the rear to switch the overhead connections with a long bamboo pole was a common occurrence.

Motor buses were used on the longer out-of-town routes, but by 1960 there were 153 trolley buses and 149 motor-buses.

The transport department decided then not to order any more trolley buses, and to slowly replace them with motor buses.

This process continued until 1967 when the last trolley bus service, the No.58 from Dudley brought an era to a close on March 5.

Electric buses have recently made a re-appearance, but in the shape of hybrids, with batteries providing the power, not a spider's web of overhead wires.



Trolley buses outside the Cleveland depot

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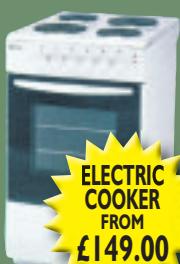
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Glastonbury



Ed Sheeran closes the festival on Sunday evening

When: June 21 to 25
Where: Worthy Farm, Pilton, Somerset
How much: Prices from £238, but already sold out this year
Glastonbury will take a year off in 2018 in order to give Worthy Farm, the village and the festival team a chance to regroup and enjoy a normal summer. In the meantime, however, anyone lucky enough to bag a ticket can enjoy what should be a spectacular weekend of live music.
2017 will see Foo Fighters headline the main stage on Saturday evening in what should be a show high on energy.
The band were all set to headline the festival in 2015 before frontman Dave Grohl broke his leg and they had to pull out.
The Friday night will see Radiohead take to the stage on the same day as they release their 20th anniversary box set for the seminal album OK Computer.
Thom Yorke and co. headlined Glastonbury in 1997 in what has gone down in folklore as one of the festival's best ever shows.
Nostalgia isn't something they have shown any affection for over the years, but will this be a one-off show which rolls back the years or a showcase for their latest studio album A Moon Shaped Pool?
Elsewhere, the biggest sing-along of the summer is guaranteed when Ed Sheeran closes the festival on Sunday evening. It will be the chart-dominating pop star's only festival appearance this year.
Chic, The XX, Run The Jewels, Alt-J, The Courteeners, Dizzee Rascal and pretty much anyone else you can think off fill the line-up.



Attention will be on Sunday evening's co-headliner Liam Gallagher

Reading & Leeds Festivals

When: August 25 to 27
Where: Little John's Farm, Reading and Bramham Park, Leeds
How much: Weekend camping tickets start from £213
Reading and Leeds returns with a mix of huge headliners, new bands and artists from all across the musical spectrum.
Festival slayers Kasabian get the party started on Friday as they look to promote their new album For Crying Out Loud.
If anyone can top a Kasabian party, however, it is Saturday's headliner, Eminem. Armed with more than 15 years worth of classics and an incredible live show, the US rapper could steal the show.
However, a lot of attention will be on Sunday evening's co-headliner Liam Gallagher.
The former Oasis frontman will take on one of the biggest slots on the UK festival scene on his own.
Closing the weekend is Muse, another guaranteed hit at any festival and a band with new music to boost their back catalogue.
Wolverhampton's own God Damn will perform on Friday in the Lock Up stage, while Walsall drum and bass pioneer Goldie will open up the dance stage on Saturday.

Where to catch the biggest acts

Report by Jordan Harris

FESTIVAL season is already upon us. It's the time when hordes of music fans descend on parks and fields across the country to see their favourite bands and performers.

Attending one of these major events is an attack on the senses, which thousands of us simply couldn't go the summer without.

The smell of fresh mud, the sight of glorious sunshine threatening to break into rain and the sound of live music.

Rockers have already headed for Donington Park for the Download Festival which took place over the weekend.

But whatever your musical preference, there are plenty of events – both near and far – to attract fans of all kinds of music.

Whether you are visiting V Festival at Weston Park or travelling further afield, it is a time for discovering artists who will change your life, making new friends and creating memories to last a lifetime.

Once again, this summer will see some of the biggest stars in the world of music come to the shores of the UK to perform in front of some of the most passionate fans in the world.

Acts of the calibre of Aerosmith, Run DMC, Ed Sheeran, The 1975, Jay-Z, and Eminem will be taking to

the stage in the UK this summer.

There is a new addition to the festival calendar with three-day event Beyond The Tracks in Birmingham, featuring some of the most up-and-coming UK music stars, as well as established artists. It includes a home-town headline performance from Ocean Colour Scene, while guitar quartet Maximo Park will perform along with Liverpools' The Coral and local boys The Twang.

Those who are into gentler sounds will be heading for the Green Man Festival, near Brecon, in August, while folk events include the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain at Uttoxeter, Mello at Throckmorton in Worcestershire, the Bromyard Folk Festival and, of course, Shrewsbury.

There's a three day funk and jazz bash in Moseley from July 7-9 and Wolverhampton can offer WV1 based at West Park, featuring tributes to a host of big name acts.

The summer events across the country are an eclectic mix, proving not only the versatility of the festivals we are blessed to have in the UK, but also the open mindedness of concert-goers who attend festivals.

These days festivals also provide a chance for the keen young music fan to show off their interpretation of the latest fashion craze, or a chance for the older fan to observe the new trends with bewilderment.

It's time to get that not-so-fresh air into your lungs, sit back and enjoy the show.

Just don't forget your wellies!

Beyond the Tracks



Ocean Colour Scene headline the all new Beyond The Tracks festival

When: September 15 to 17
Where: Eastside City Park, Birmingham
How much: Weekend tickets cost £145 and day tickets are also available for £54.45 and £44 for students

Beyond The Tracks is a new addition to this year's festival calendar.

The Digbeth based festival starts strong, however, with three days of live music featuring some of the biggest Brummie bands. It's not just local acts who will be performing at Eastside City Park, however. Headliners for the inaugural year Editors and Ocean Colour Scene keep the Birmingham flag flying high, while Orbital get the first night under way.

All together, the weekend is a nice blend of dance music and rock music, with most acts stemming from the late 90s and early 2000s. Bands such as Jaws and Superfood are looking to make a name for themselves and potentially move up the ranks over the coming years.

The quality of the line up, which also includes a performance from Peter Hook and the Light, The Jesus and Mary Chain and The Coral, hints that Beyond The Tracks is here to stay. There is no camping available but if you are from the Midlands, it is not hard to get to Birmingham.

Eastside City Park is a new site in Birmingham City Centre situated right next to all major transport links.

V Festival



Getting Jay-Z on the bill is a major coup for V Festival

When: August 18 to 20
Where: Weston Park, near Shifnal
How much: Weekend camping tickets cost £189

Once again V Festival has attracted some huge names to Weston Park.

V's transformation into a pop festival is essentially complete now, and the event attracts a different type of crowd compared to former years.

A decade ago, the festival was headlined by The Killers and Foo Fighters, with Kasabian and Snow Patrol also drawing in huge crowds.

This year, Pink will be closing the festival on Sunday after Jay-Z performs on the Saturday night.

Getting Jay-Z on the bill is a major coup for V. He is a bona fide legend and still one of the biggest names in music.

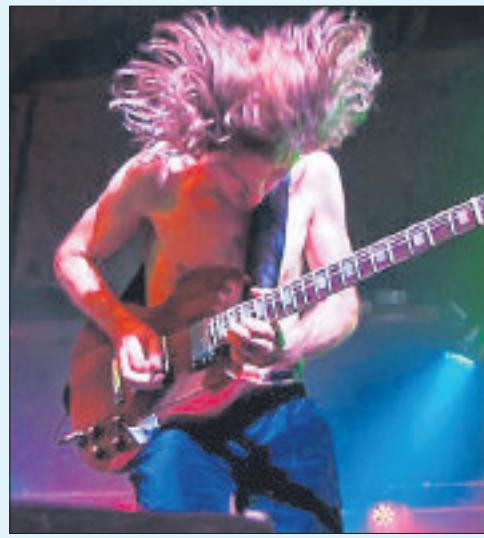
V will also see a number of home-grown rap acts given a chance to shine on the big stage, including Stormzy, whose debut album shot to number one earlier this year.

Dizzee Rascal, now one of the UK's elder statesmen for rap, is also set to perform, as is up and comer Yung Fume.

Rap is currently the most popular genre in the UK but V also makes time for more traditional pop artists such as Craig David and The Vamps.

Meanwhile Madness keep the flame alive for their particular brand of ska-infused party music.

WV1 Fest



When: August 12 and 13
Where: West Park, Wolverhampton
How much: Tickets are free but there is a booking fee of £3.50

AC/DC, Slipknot, Arctic Monkeys, David Bowie, Led Zeppelin and more come to Wolverhampton for WV1 Fest - well sort of.

The West Park event is the region's biggest tribute festival.

After a hugely successful debut last year, WV1 Fest returns over two days, with more than 40 live bands, two stages of live music, food and beer stalls and a funfair on offer for festival-goers to enjoy.

The atmosphere last year was superb and the positive approach of organisers means that those walking into West Park feel like they could be at any of the big festivals.

Tickets are free too, with a mandatory booking fee of £3.50 all that is standing between visitors and two days of live music.

VIP tickets are also on sale this year, with £12 securing access to a private roofed bar and the holy grail of any festival, private toilets.

WV1 Fest is sure to grow over the coming years and it would be foolish not to jump on board in 2017.

Organisers said: "We spare no expense in creating the best possible free festival experience and deliver high production values in an extremely fun filled safe family environment."

"We attract like-minded festival revellers of all ages from all corners of the UK and beyond."

The Ticket

IDINA: I WON'T LET MY CAREER GO

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All hard standing

Idina's full of glee at going on tour

She's the star of one of the biggest films of all time. And yet the biggest moments of Idina Menzel's life were not what people might have thought.

When the veteran of Broadway musicals performed *Let It Go* at the 2014 Oscars, her public life was at an all time peak – but her private life was in ruins.

"It was such a strange dichotomy. There was this thing of having worked so hard my whole life and finally having this huge song. To be at the Oscars, and to have all the glamour of that. . .

"And then to come home and have to go to mediation with my ex, figuring out which days he was visiting our son and where we were going, and the sadness, and the regret. It was. I mean, it was rich. It was rich, it was full.

"I'll always be hard on myself I guess. I want to do the right thing by my son, and that means balancing my work and my quality time with him. I know he needs to grow up seeing a really happy, confident mother, then he'll be drawn to those kinds of women."

Idina has been described as having a 'tear-down-the-house voice and commanding personality. . .' by *Variety* magazine.

And after releasing her fifth solo studio album 'idina' last autumn, the Tony Award-winning superstar is returning to the UK as part of her 2017 World Tour. The six-date tour includes a major London show at the Royal Albert Hall on June 15th and also features a headline gig on Monday at Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

Idina has captivated audiences at sell-out concerts around the world with her irresistible charm, wit and unparalleled vocal prowess. Throughout the tour, Idina will lead audiences through a special journey of songs from 'idina' as well as other classic pop, musical theatre favorites and her own personal catalogue.

The Tony Award-winning Idina Menzel has a diverse career that traverses stage, film, television and music. Idina's voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash 'Frozen', in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song 'Let It Go' and in the follow up short, 'Frozen Fever'.

After Idina's performance of the multi-platinum song at the 86th annual Academy Awards, she made history as the first person with both a Billboard Top 10 hit and a Tony Award for acting. Idina capped 2016 with the release of her fifth original solo studio album 'idina.'

Idina earned her first Tony nomination as Maureen in the Pulitzer Prize winner 'Rent', and won the award for her performance as Elphaba in 'Wicked'. Other notable roles include Shelby Corcoran on the hit television show 'Glee' as well as starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Amy Adams in Disney's 'Enchanted'. Idina also performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLIX in February 2015, which was the most-watched television program in U.S. history.

In addition to cast albums, Idina's prolific recording career includes the solo albums 'idina.', 'I Stand', 'Here' and 'Still I Can't Be Still' as well as her first-ever Christmas

Frozen fever – Idina says her career makes her feel confident



album 'Holiday Wishes' and the live album 'Barefoot: Live At The Symphony'. Idina's most recent Broadway role as 'Elizabeth' in the original production 'If/Then' earned her critical acclaim and her third Tony nomination.

Perhaps not surprisingly, it is her career that gives her confidence.

"My career is what makes me feel confident.

"To feel self-sufficient and like I don't need a man to support me and all that kind of stuff makes me feel good about myself. It's just, you know. . .

"Everyone talks about me being a role model for young girls and that's not always the truth in my day-to-day personal life. I'm not constantly practising what I preach.

"I'm a little uncomfortable carrying that banner. I'm not always 'Oh, I feel so great about myself today. I'm a powerful, confident woman, and I'm not going to care what anyone else thinks of me!'

"I mean it's all rubbish really. I can be a mess. The older I get, I get wiser about some things, and yet I get more fragile and vulnerable about others."

Idina's solo records give her the opportunity to strike out. She finds catharsis in singing out

I kind of thrive and vibe off the connection with the audience

the problems in her life – it's a form of therapy. "I don't know if it's breaking out. It's just me. It's a new beginning. It's an album where I explore a lot of things that have been going on in my life. It's been a turbulent couple of years, with some great stuff and not so great stuff, so a lot of people will feel like they get to know me on a first-name basis."

STRONG

Idina is looking forward to her forthcoming tour. She enjoys engaging with fans and hopes to make strong connections when she's on the road.

"I kind of thrive and vibe off the connection with the audience. Maybe it's because I do eight shows a week in theatre and I thirst for that little thing that changes it up from day to day. I'm not afraid of that. If somebody calls out in a lovingly heckling voice, I'm like, 'OK, what did you say?' I want to talk about it."

"The other night, the band started playing 'Brick House' because I thought somebody said, 'You look like a brick house'. I don't know what they said. It was: 'You look beautiful' or something. But I had my ear monitors in. I said, 'What? I look like a brick house?' And the next thing you know, we're playing Brick House."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.

All Or Nothing the musical



All Or Nothing for Mod heroes the Small Faces

The Small Faces certainly packed a musical punch, providing a gritty London R&B alternative to the all-conquering Merseybeat of the mid-1960s.

They also helped create and define the music and fashion shaping Mod culture and were responsible for hits including Whatcha Gonna Do About It, Itchycoo Park, Tin Soldier, Lazy Sunday and All Or Nothing.

And it is All Or Nothing which is also the title of a new musical aiming to recapture the era and tell the story of working-class East End lads who become a pop phenomenon while facing the perils of booze, drugs and unscrupulous management.

The touring production is heading to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for three nights and a Saturday matinee between June 22 and 24.

The show is a labour of love for its writer, co-producer (and one of its stars) Carol Harrison, an actress who had known Small Faces singer, the late Steve Marriott, and wanted to bring his story to the stage. It was an initial run of the show on the south coast, which saw TV actor Chris Simmons come on board. Carol had secured Simon Rouse, DCI Jack Meadows in The Bill, to play tough manager Don Arden. Simon knew Chris from their time at Sun Hill nick in the popular police drama.

Chris, who played CID officer Mickey Webb, saw the script and was offered the lead role of Steve Marriott.

"I read it and said to my agent, 'I have got to have this part.' I fell in love with the way it was written, the narration, and I knew about Steve Marriott. It really is a wonderful, fantastic, ballsy, edgy, funny, dark, emotional piece and Carol's writing is very funny."

Country life comes to the city streets

Visitors to Birmingham city centre this weekend can escape to the country without leaving the urban environment.

This year the theme of the Summer in Southside free festival is Escape to the Countryside as a maypole and friendly yokels will be part of the celebration held in the streets in and around Birmingham Hippodrome and Chinatown. Wellies are optional.

There will be a sheepdog herding ducks, a mini farm for petting animals, The Sheep Show featuring the 'Sheep Show Shuffle' and a chance for a chat with Farmer Giles. There will also be an opportunity

to see members of Birmingham Royal Ballet perform the comic Chicken Dance from La Fille mal gardee; The Fabularium present the tale of woodland scoundrel Reynard the Fox (pictured); acrobatics from Tanzania's The Black Eagles; Asian dance from Jaivanti Patel Dance and Lions of Punjab bhangra dancers; and Folk Dance Remixed will perform their quirky Step Hop House.

There will be the creation of a cardboard farmyard by Russian group Cardboardia; tree-based drama Roots by Highly Sprung; puppetry in Imaginere Productions' Operation Migration about one man's mission to save orphaned geese; and a Country Fayre Picnic hosted by Secret City Arts.

Visitors will even be able to take a stroll in the countryside without leaving the Birmingham Hippodrome, when on Sunday the Hippodrome's foyer becomes the focus of family events, including virtual reality. There will be face painting, vintage fairground rides and traditional games.

The focus will be on music on Saturday night outdoors at The Arcadian, featuring Brum's own madcap folk and world music rockers The Destroyers, alongside the brassy sound of the Rajasthan Heritage Band, plus contributions from Lions of Punjab, the Black Eagles and Folk Dance Remixed.

The programme is available at www.birminghamhippodrome.com/calendar/summer-southside-2017-2



Skids returning to mark 40 years

The Robin 2 in Bilston hosts a reunion gig by Scottish punk band The Skids on June 22 as part of the group's 40th anniversary tour. They released punk classic Sweet Suburbia in '78, had a top ten hit with Into The Valley and released four albums before splitting in 1982. Guitarist Stuart Adamson went on to form Big Country but died in 2001. Singer Richard Jobson (pictured) will be back alongside original Skids bassist Bill Simpson and drummer Mike Baillie. Tickets cost £25 advance or £30 door.



xx marks the spot for 24 TV star Kiefer

Guitar rockers Hunter & The Bear, who last month released debut album Paper Heart, are at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Saturday night. The same venue hosts DUB FX tomorrow night (Friday), grunge rock leading light Mark Lanegan with his band on Monday and The Maccabees visit on Thursday (June 22) as part of their farewell tour. The xx play Birmingham's O2 Academy on Wednesday, the same night TV star Kiefer Sutherland performs songs from his country/rock debut Down In A Hole in one of the venue's other rooms. Shropshire psychedelic outfit Grin Fiction headline a four band bill at The Sunflower Lounge at Smallbrook Queensway on Saturday night. Tap into American roots music with Chastity Brown and Otis Gibbs at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday.

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CHOICE

Pitch Battle
(BBC1, 7.30pm)

New series, Mel Giedroyc presents the choral music contest, in which choirs of all sizes, genres and voices compete in a series of head-to-head knock-out challenges. First, each group is given a chance to display their speciality with a 'showstopper' performance, before battling it out with their rivals in a themed 'riff-off'. The winning group will be decided by a panel of experts, including crusading choirmaster Gareth Malone, former choir-girl Kelis, and this week's guest judge Bebe Rexha.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.30 Trooping the Colour 2017. 1.05 BBC News: Weather. 1.20 Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. 2.20 Live Challenge Cup Rugby. 2.45 Live Match of the Wolves v Migan Warriors (Kick-off 3.30pm). 5.05 Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 5.35 BBC News. 5.45 Regional Programme. 5.55 Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.45 Doctor Who. The Doctor takes Bill to ancient Aberdeenshire, where she is given a chance to solve the mystery of what happened to the lost Ninth Legion of the Roman army.

7.30 Pitch Battle. New series. Mel Giedroyc presents as choirs of all sizes, genres and voices compete in a series of knock-out challenges, judged by Gareth Malone, Kelis, and guest judge Bebe Rexha.

9.00 Casualty. The day of Cal's funeral arrives, and Ethel delivers a moving, heartfelt eulogy that leaves both Ian and Lily worried about her wellbeing. Meanwhile, a school trip to France comes to an abrupt end when a scuffle on board the coach causes it to crash. As a result, the ED is inundated with teenage patients, including Sean, whose unusual vitamin tablets ring alarm-bells. And Cal, and Sky, whose mother is a long-term advocate of alternative medicine, and is not happy about her daughter receiving an X-ray soon.

9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R)

10.20 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update.

10.40 Film: Shanghai Knights. (2003) Chinese sheriff Chon Wang and reformed bandit Roy O'Bannon head for Victorian London on the trail of a murderer. Their investigation leads them to a nefarious Englishman plotting to kill the royal family - but fortunately Chon's talented sister comes to their aid. Martial arts comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Aidan Gillen and Fann Wong.

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: In Name Only. (1939) 7.55 Film: Wonder Man. (1949) 9.30 Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) 10.30 Great British Menu. (R) 11.00 Great British Menu. (R) 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 90s TV: The Best of the 90s. (R) 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Paul Newman: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.30 Film: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. (1958) Drama, starring Paul Newman and Elizabeth Taylor. 4.15 Flit It! (R) 5.00 Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Trooping the Colour 2017: Highlights. Another chance to see highlights from the annual ceremony, in which the 1st Battalion Irish Guards marked the birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Horse Guards Parade.

7.30 The Venice Biennale: Sink or Swim. Brenda Emmanuel follows a diverse team of emerging artists as they install and prepare to launch the first-ever Diaspora Pavilion at the Venetian Palazzo during the Venice Biennale. The annual art exhibition gives artists a chance to demonstrate their talents to the exclusive network of curators, museum directors and buyers that attend the festival in its opening week, and this documentary follows the undiscovered creatives as they navigate VENI launch parties and find new inspiration among the many exhibitions across the city.

8.00 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v France. (Kick-off 8.15pm) Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the two-Test series, staged at the Estadio Brigadier General Estanislao Lopez, Santa Fe. While England are short of several players representing the British & Irish Lions in New Zealand, Eddie Jones has been able to select a squad with a fine balance of experience and youth for this challenging tour against the Pumas. With analysis by Brian Moore, Ugo Monye and Jeremy Guscott.

10.30 Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story. The comedian on stage in Glasgow in 2015, musing on economics, art history and diet tips, as well as the rigours of growing up and adapting to his new-found place in the world. (R)

11.30 Versailles; (R) Inside Versailles. 12.30 Film: Cafe de Flore. (2011) 2.25 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Sooty. (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Tek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Tek's Adventures. (R) 6.55 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.10 Ben 10. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Home Game. (R) 10.25 Film: Carry On Cowboy. (1966) 12.15 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Tipping Point. (R) 1.30 Film: Three Men and a Baby. (1987) Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. 3.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Russia v New Zealand (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.20 ITV News: Weather.

6.35 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Sport Stars. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.30 The Voice Kids. Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott all hope to fill their teams with the best young singers in the UK, as the second stage of blind auditions continues. Emma Willis is on hand to meet and greet the junior performers taking to the stage, as each hopes to impress the coaches and secure a place in the £30,000 prize - and a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

9.00 Film: Budget Jones: The Edge of Reason. (2004) The disaster-prone journalist seems to have finally found the perfect boyfriend. However, when the couple start to squabble over their personal habits, she decides to decamp for a while to Thailand and write a travelogue. Unfortunately, she has reckoned without the reappearance of a duplicitous old flame - and a spell behind bars in a Thai prison. Romantic comedy sequel, with Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Jim Broadbent and Gemma Jones.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.25 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1 The Grid. 6.40 Motor Sport: British Gt. 7.05 Bloodwise Blenheim Palace Triathlon. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Frasier. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.00 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.35 Big House, Little House. 5.35 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Autistic Gardener. New series. Award-winning designer Alan Gardner returns to transform another selection of suburban British gardens from unruly wastelands into horticultural masterpieces. He begins his latest campaign in Lancashire, where Pinky and Joe request help dealing with their oddly shaped triangular plot. Plus, Alan makes the first in a series of inspiration trips to America, beginning with a visit to an urban oasis in New York.

8.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Tycoon-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr., Mickey Rourke and Don Cheadle.

10.25 Film: The Maze Runner. (2014) A teen with no memory in an isolated community must find his way through a deadly labyrinth in search of freedom. Sci-fi adventure, with Dylan O'Brien and Kaya Scodelario.

12.35 Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone. (2013) Documentary about the band's 2012 reunion concert. 2.15 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Tom is not ready to face his fears. Lily is scared that her scars from the crash may not heal, and Scott prepares for a fete for the MS awareness day that he has organised. 4.15 Ackley Bridge. Jordan finds himself in charge of a baby that he has to look after in school. (R) 5.10 Fifteen to One: General knowledge quiz. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.20 Access. 10.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.20 Police Interceptors: Drugs Bust. (R) 12.20 On Benefits: To Heat or to Eat? (R) 1.20 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 2.20 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.10 5 News Weekend.

6.15 Funniest Ever Crazy Cats. Iain Lee narrates a selection of comical clips featuring cats, with help from Dave Spikei, Matt Richardson and Andi Osho.

7.00 Blind Date. New series. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which contestants must choose between three men based on their answers to a series of questions. The first episode sees a woman from Stockport and a man with an eight-inch beard asking the questions, while cameras also follow two strangers from different backgrounds on a blind date in Barcelona.

8.00 Before They Were Stars. Dale Winton treks back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing the housemates' reactions to the second eviction, as well as arguments, laughs and diary room visits.

10.00 Michael McIntyre: Live at the Comedy Store. The comedian performs at the famous Soho comedy club, discussing topics including shopping, politics, what Brits call extreme weather, Scottish money and pregnancy tests.

10.30 The Michael McIntyre Story. Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame, examining his breakthrough performance at the 2006 Royal Variety Show and role in the reinvention of stand-up comedy on TV. (R)

11.55 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.

12.00 SuperCasino. 3.05 Film: Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans. (2009) 5.00 House Doctor. (R) 5.25 Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade 7.30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2017 9.00 Cardinal 10.25 Film: Lemmy: The Movie (2010) 12.20 Lemmy: In His Own Words 12.45 Heavy Metal Britannia 2.15 David Bowie and the Story of Ziggy Stardust 3.15 Lemmy: In His Own Words 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.20 Take Me Out 12.20 You've Been Framed! Gold 12.50 Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) 1.55 FYI Daily 3.00 Film: The Flintstones (1994) 4.00 FYI Daily 4.05 Film: The Flintstones (1994) 4.45 FYI Daily 5.15 Film: Stargate (2001) 5.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Stargate (2001) 7.50 FYI Daily 7.50 FYI Daily 8.00 Love Island: The Weekly Hot List 10.00 Celebrity Dad! 12.50 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) 1.50 FYI Daily 1.55 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) 2.45 Telelopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.05 Film: Death on the Nile (1978) 12.05 FYI Daily 12.10 Film: Death on the Nile (1978) 1.55 Lewis 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Midsummers Murders 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Law & Order: UK 12.00 On the Buses 2.25 ITV3 Nightscreen

E4

12.00 The Goldbergs 2.30 Rude (ish) Tube Shorts 2.45 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Easy A (2010) 10.55 Gogglebox 1.00 Royal Wedding 2.05 Tattoo Fixers 2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.40 The Goldbergs

Film4

1.00 Epic (2013) 3.05 Carry On Regardless (1961) 4.55 Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) 7.00 About a Boy (2002) 9.00 Commando (1985) 10.50 Conan the Barbarian (1982) 1.25 The Boxer from Shantung (1972) 4.00 Close

SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 17

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SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 18

CHOICE



Laura Fraser

The Loch (ITV, 9pm)

A human heart is discovered on the shores of the Loch, and forensic psychologist Blake Albrighton is brought in to join the investigating team. He quickly forms a disturbing theory about the motive behind the seemingly inexplicable murders, but Chief Inspector Frank Smilie is quick to dismiss his ideas. However, if the new arrival is correct, the once peaceful Highland community could be set to endure far more deaths, as a serial killer prowls the area. Crime drama, starring Laura Fraser, John Sessions and Don Gilet.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Saturday Morning. (R) **3.00** Point. (R) **3.45** Escapade to the Country. (R) **4.30** Lifeline. **4.40** Points of View. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Eat Well for Less? (R) **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Sean Fletcher present the show from the Hay Festival, where they meet the event's organisers as well as writers and artists. Ellie also goes on a wildlife safari inspired by one of the featured books and joins a team spotting and tracking adder with radio transmitters. Paul Adamson reports on technology for preventing droughts and John Craven presents an update on the Countryfile Photographic Competition. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce returns to BBC Caversham, near Reading, where objects brought in to be valued include a communion book that was originally owned by war poet Wilfred Owen, an Aston Martin sports car, and a finely embroidered 17th-century needlework box that creates a surprise when its value is revealed. **9.00** Poldark. Verity anxiously awaits word of her husband, who is sailing for Lisbon, when news reaches Trenwith of a naval battle in which both he and Dwight may have been killed. Ross is reunited with a disreputable old friend of his father, who tells him that Dwight has been captured and is facing execution in France – prompting him to turn down the position of magistrate and sail to the rescue. Drake proposes to Sam that the Methodists can worship at the church, but the decision angers George, who has them driven from the building. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Film: Thor: The Dark World. (2013) Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston. **10.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.50** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Sunday Kitchen: Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. **1.30** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Hull FC v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Rowing World Cup. **6.00** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. The concluding episode of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London follows the work of engineers building 10 new stations. A team battles to put together the giant jigsaw that will become a cathedral-sized station at Canary Wharf. The structure is so big it has to be erected underwater in a dock, while the roof comes in a kit of more than 2,500 panels. As the underground stations that will become the new stations are carved out, workers uncover gruesome reminders of the city's past. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. (R) **8.00** The Life Swap Adventure. A nurse from Nottingham who wants to live somewhere with a sense of community swaps places with a B&B owner from Alaska, who is hoping to escape her small-town life. **9.00** 20 Days – Battle for Supremacy. **10.15** Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R) **10.45** White Gold. Vincent is nominated for Entrepreneur of the Year in the Essex Business Awards, and Lavender and Vincent discover that Fitzpatrick is a CB radio enthusiast. (R) **11.15** Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights. Action from the final at The Oval in south London, which provided the setting for the climax of the eighth staging of the one-day tournament. **12.05** Athletics. **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: The Adventures. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan: The Adventures. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Film: Carry on Cruising. (1962) **12.45** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Tipping Point. (R) **2.00** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Portugal v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.20** ITV News; Weather. **6.35** Britain As Seen on ITV. A selection of clips from the ITV archives showing talented people from around the world, including a search for budding singers in Wales in the 1960s. (R) **7.00** Vera. A fisherman's body is found tangled up in a North Sea trawler's net. Vera and her team investigate with the help of the local harbourmaster, and find the dead man's sons pointing the finger at the owner of a fish market, with whom they have a long-running feud. Retracing the dead man's steps, Vera discovers when he drowned and tracks down a waitress who may have been one of the last people to see him alive. However, the case becomes more complicated when a witness runs away and a boat belonging to the dead man's sister-in-law goes up in flames. (R) **9.00** The Loch. A forensic psychologist joins the team following the discovery of a human heart by the lakeside, and develops his own terrifying theories about the reason for the murders. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegro Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R) **11.15** Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights. Action from the final at The Oval in south London, which provided the setting for the climax of the eighth staging of the one-day tournament. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** MotoGP UK. **3.50** ITV News. **4.00** MotoGP UK. **4.15** ITV News. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Men. (R) **8.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.55** Cresser. (R) **7.00** Paul. **8.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Whisper. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Little Princess. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **11.05** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors: Drugs Bust. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **13.30** Film: Footloose. (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon. **3.35** Film: Dirty Dancing. (2017) Musical remake of the romantic drama, starring Abigail Breslin. **6.10** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) An unlucky-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be a real pain in the nightmarish who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda and Michael Vartan. **8.00** That's So 1982. A look back at 1982, featuring news, pop and TV archive clips. It was a year that saw the Falklands War, the birth of Prince William, Channel 4's launch together with the first episode of Countdown, and Steven Spielberg's ET: The Extra-Terrestrial break box office records. It was also the age of new romanticism and electropop, while tracks such as Come on Eileen, Eye of the Tiger and Pass the Dutchie stormed the charts. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** Most Shocking Reality Moments. (R) **12.55** Access. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Adulthood. (2008)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Pip Ahoy! **6.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.25** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.30** Mr Men. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Cresser. (R) **7.00** Paul. **8.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Whisper. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Little Princess. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **11.05** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors: Drugs Bust. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **13.30** Film: Footloose. (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon. **3.35** Film: Dirty Dancing. (2017) Musical remake of the romantic drama, starring Abigail Breslin. **6.10** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) An unlucky-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be a real pain in the nightmarish who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda and Michael Vartan. **8.00** That's So 1982. A look back at 1982, featuring news, pop and TV archive clips. It was a year that saw the Falklands War, the birth of Prince William, Channel 4's launch together with the first episode of Countdown, and Steven Spielberg's ET: The Extra-Terrestrial break box office records. It was also the age of new romanticism and electropop, while tracks such as Come on Eileen, Eye of the Tiger and Pass the Dutchie stormed the charts. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** Most Shocking Reality Moments. (R) **12.55** Access. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Adulthood. (2008)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Secret Knowledge: Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **7.30** BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2017 Final **10.00** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **11.00** Buddy Holly: Raise On **12.00** Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? **1.00** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **2.00** The Magic of Mushrooms **3.00** Battle for the Himalayas: The Fight to Film Everest **4.00** Close

ITV2
12.05 The Voice Kids **1.40** Take Me Out Celebrity Special **2.45** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **4.50** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.50** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.05 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.45** Foyle's War **5.55** Sunday Night at the Palladium **8.00** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

E4
12.05 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.45** Foyle's War **5.55** Sunday Night at the Palladium **8.00** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

5.00 Film: The Goldbergs: Father's Day **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Father's Day **5.50** Film: Avatar (2009) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: Kick-Ass 2 (2013) **12.00** Gogglebox **1.00** The Inbetweeners **2.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Hollywood

Film4
11.00 The Frogmen (1951) **1.00** Fast Girls (2012) **2.45** Congo (1935) **4.55** Rio 2 (2014) **6.55** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **9.00** Lone Survivor (2013) **11.20** Man on Fire (2004) **2.10** The Beat: Beneath My Feet (2015) **4.00** Close

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MONDAY

Fatal Performance, Channel 5, 3.20pm

An aspiring actress, working as a waitress, is offered a lucrative contract to impersonate the wife of a businessman during a prestigious reception event in their home. However, she soon learns the devious truth behind the proposal and what seemed like a simple job soon turns into a nightmare scenario. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom and David Palfy. (2013)

TUESDAY

Murder She Baked: A Chocolate Chip Cookie Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A small-town Minnesota baker turns amateur sleuth when her delivery driver is shot dead in the alley behind her shop. Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Hit & Run, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After putting a notorious swindler behind bars, a lawyer finds herself looking over her shoulder when a former cop threatens to blackmail her over the career-ending skeleton in her closet. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Caroline Cave and Marc Menard. (2015)



Red Heat, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

The Girl He Met Online, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman suffers dangerous mood swings and a fierce temper that have ruined all her past relationships. When she meets a new man, she resolves to keep her dark side in check, but as she comes under pressure from her boss and mother, she begins to lose control, with fatal consequences. Thriller, starring Yvonne Zima and Shawn Roberts. (2014)

FRIDAY

Red Heat, ITV, 10.45pm

A Russian detective travels to America to oversee the extradition of a Georgian drug baron responsible for supplying cocaine in Moscow. He is teamed up with a hostile Chicago cop, but when their prisoner kills an officer and escapes, they put aside their mutual mistrust to bring him to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi, Peter Boyle, Laurence Fishburne and Ed O'Ross. (1988)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

Reid is on the hunt for one final piece of justice

Blood, gore, violence and shattered lives – they're all just in a day's work for the coppers working on Ripper Street.

Despite being set in the late-Victorian era, this drama, which returns for its second series this week, bears all the hallmarks of 21st century television thanks to its near-the-knuckle depictions of crimes, brutal plots and fast-paced approach to storytelling.

And although those factors are enough to make any programme compelling, Ripper Street also had a superb cast, led by Matthew Macfadyen, Jerome Flynn and Adam Rothenberg as detectives Edmund Reid and Bennett Drake, and American medical expert Homer Jackson respectively.

All three return here to play their heroic if somewhat flawed characters who are trying to keep Whitechapel's streets clean – which, it seems, is an impossible job.

The drama itself has had almost as many ups and downs as its central characters. The first run

began airing between Christmas and New Year of 2012, with the second appearing in 2013.

And then it all seemed to go horribly wrong. The BBC decided that, following a slump in the number of viewers, they wouldn't back a third series, so it seemed that would be end of it. However, following an upturn from fans, Amazon's streaming service decided to take up the baton and have been behind the remaining seasons, with the Beeb repealing it later.

Unfortunately, Ripper Street really is coming to an end – the fifth series, which begins tonight, has been announced as last.

So, what can we expect from it?

Well, as those who saw season four will be aware, the three main characters at the heart of the story now number only two – Flynn's Drake met his maker that to cannibalistic killer Nathaniel Dove (played with obvious glee by Jonas

Macfadyen). The action picks up just days later, but doesn't dwell on our hero's

tragic demise for long. Instead, he's given a low-key funeral, complete with sobbing wife Rose and a harmonically perfect police choir, to add a little melancholy atmosphere, in case the scene wasn't already downbeat enough.

Missing from the mourners are Drake's best buddies, Reid and Jackson, and Jackson's wife, Long Susan. They're not too distraught to attend – they're now fugitives, hiding out in Whitechapel's sewers after their plan to kill Susan's evil father went horribly wrong.

Now, rather than being the hunters, they are the hunted, and Dove's brother – who happens to be the assistant police commissioner – is the man charged with bringing them to justice. But it won't be enough for him to make arrests – he wants to shame Reid, enabling him to protect his sociopath sibling in the process; it seems that blood really is thicker than water.

Flynn's absence from the cast will be missed, but Macfadyen and Rothenberg have the charisma to carry the story without him.



Matthew Macfadyen stars in Ripper Street, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Missey is served a curve ball when her dad announces that he has other plans for her. Confused and emotional, Nas appeals to Lila for help, but Lila draws a line under their friendship. Missey resolves to show her that there are plenty more fish in the sea, though Nas does not take to Missey's expedition to a gay bar

and leaves alone early. Meanwhile, a guilt-stricken Mandy ends things with Sadiq and throws herself back into her marriage, and Emma discovers that Samir is engaged.



TUESDAY
Kat and Alfie: Redwater
BBC1, 8pm

Things reach a tense conclusion as matters come to a head in the Irish drama. Peter is still missing following his row with Dermott, so Eileen and Roisin set out to find him – although it seems Agnes is worried what long-kept secrets he may give up if he is found. Padraig offers a shoulder to cry on for

WEDNESDAY
Ackley Bridge
Channel 4, 8pm

FRIDAY
Glastonbury 2017
BBC2, 8pm

New series. Jo Whiley, Huw Stephens and Clara Amfo present coverage of the world renowned Glastonbury festival of Contemporary Performing Arts in Pilton, Somerset. The team look towards the weekend ahead and bring news, highlights and performances from the myriad of famous stages on the first day of the festival.

VERSAILLES
BBC2, 9pm

Louis XIV learns the names of the nobles who purchased the poisons, but a last fatal batch reaches the palace, and humiliated Madame de Montespan has a plan for it. Facing a flailing death, brazen Madame Agathe predicts doom for the King and his royal line, while Sophie is torn emotionally and traitorous Thomas realises Philippe is only acting affectionately to feed him misinformation, making their final bedroom tryst a bloody affair.

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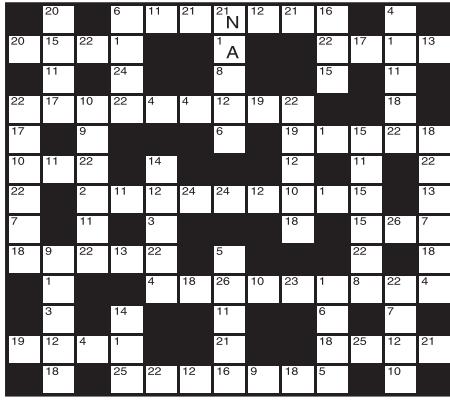
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BRAIN GYM

No.434

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	B	Z	O	I	F	K	Y	L	U	W	Q	C	V
14	D	T	R	M	X	A	J	H	E	P	G	N	S

Quiz

- By which letters do we remember the Nazi 'protective squadron'?
- What is the North American name for an elk?
- What relation was Pliny the Younger to Pliny the Elder?
- Of which calendar was Thermidor the eleventh month?
- What is the Poet Laureate's annual stipend?
- Which motor-racing team were the first winners of the Constructor's Championship in 1958?
- To which family of trees does the avocado belong?
- What is COBOL?
- What do we call the biennial herb Petroselinum crispum?
- Of which country is Dakar the capital?

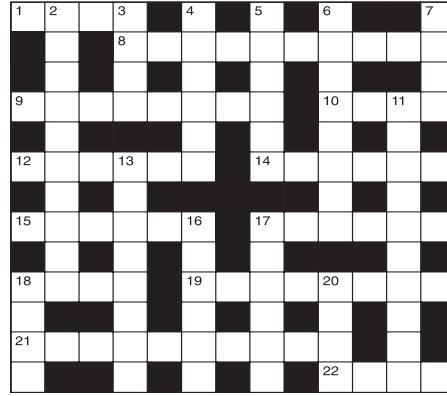
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:
Across

- Prohibit string used for explosion (4)
- Narration by worker to bookkeeper (10)
- Gaoler is converting harem (8)
- The others take a breather (4)
- Confessions you and I find in complete groups (6)
- Wince as bird eats 50 (6)
- Eager study in painting (6)
- Convincing little man to join company.... (6)
- ...since it turns to wine (4)
- It enables one to look at a spectacle (8)
- O.C., not C-i-C? No! What a mix-up! (10)
- No centre for the team (4)

- When nurses are off duty? (10)
- A convict gets up for a fete (4)
- Musical balance in practice? (6)
- Defer uprising by dandy (3,3)
- Jumpy beginning? (8)
- In haste tell the printer to let it stand (4)
- This part of the watch isn't new (6-4)
- Look at the bit at the lens end (8)
- Long, narrow cut looks right in fish (6)
- Minister goes round circle (6)
- The bishop needs one for promotion (4)
- Taverns of both hemispheres, perhaps (4)



Quick Clues:

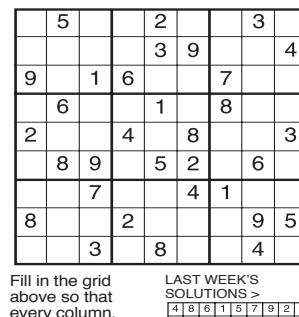
Across

- Burden (4)
- Efface (10)
- Circuitous (10)
- Pull (4)
- Madness (6)
- Coming (6)
- Recondite (8)
- Prop (4)
- Shrewdness (10)
- Curb (8)
- Diminish (6)
- Dregs (8)
- Club (6)
- Gull (4)
- The majority (4)

Down

- Efface (10)
- Shame (8)
- Salver (4)
- Be treacherous (6)
- Reliable (6)
- Bondsman (6)
- Make (6)
- Costly (4)
- Taverns of both hemispheres, perhaps (4)
- Long tooth (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	8	6	1	5	7	9	2	3
9	2	5	8	6	3	7	1	4
7	3	1	9	4	2	6	8	5
6	1	3	5	7	8	4	9	2
2	5	4	3	1	9	8	6	7
8	9	7	4	2	6	3	5	1
3	6	2	7	9	1	5	4	8
5	7	9	2	8	4	1	3	6
1	4	8	6	3	5	2	7	9

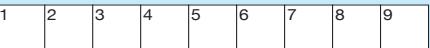
LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Heave, 8 Look out; 9 Preview; 10 Under; 12 Shipwrecked; 15 Considered; 18 Shred; 19 Elated; 21 Cleared; 22 Swede. Down: 1 Shipwrecks; 2 Babel; 3 Yeti; 4 Flower; 5 Coquette; 6 Cordial; 11 Rope-ladder; 13 Painters; 14 Annoyed; 16 Emends; 17 Agree; 20 Rash. QUICK - Across: 7 Drama; 8 Plateau; 9 Inverse; 10 Tired; 12 Entrancing; 15 Inequality; 18 Noose; 19 Teacher; 21 Consume; 22 Exact. Down: 1 Admirer; 2 Halve; 3 Pair; 4 Appear; 5 Martini; 6 Refrain; 11 Degenerate; 13 Nauseous; 14 Rebound; 16 Letter; 17 Cheap; 20 Anew.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

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gives a venomous creature,
gives a second venomous creature,
gives a venom.



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Taking Stock of this trendy spot

PEOPLE dress differently on this island," whispers my guide Gabriela, as we drive across the bridge from central Stockholm to trendy Södermalm, one of 14 islands making up Sweden's capital.

Mooching around the funky second-hand shops and treasure-filled antique troves of Sofö, I quickly understand what she means. Outfits are a bit more daring (yet always sophisticated) and hairstyles have been coiffured into all sorts of angular cuts.

But wherever you are in this relaxed, waterside city, a 'go as you like' attitude prevails. Even the daily commute is a breeze on a metro network where more than 90 stations are brightly decorated in outlandish and abstract designs. Stretching 110km and featuring the work of multiple artists, it's often called 'the longest art gallery in the world'.

I'm mesmerised by the swirling harlequin ceiling of the Kungsträdgården stop, created by artist Ulrik Samuelson in 1977 to represent a royal 17th century garden. So much so, in fact, I manage to miss several trains. But who cares? Unlike so many capital cities, there's no pressure to hurry in Stockholm. After all, people like to do things a little bit differently here...

BEST FOR NATURE LOVERS

Step down a set of rickety wooden steps to board the historic ship MS Ostana I, built in 1906. From Strandvägen in central Stockholm, you'll chug along for 20 minutes before reaching Fjäderholmarna, the first small group of islands in Stockholm's archipelago.

BEST FOR COCKTAIL AFICIONADOS

Trendy new urban spaces are popping up in downtown central Stockholm, such as the luxurious Hotel At Six. Head upstairs past the marble statues for a Punch Bowl in the bar.

BEST FOR CULTURE SEEKERS

Fotografiska holds 25 exhibitions a year in a beautiful

Laid back living – a view of Stockholm from a boat



Culture – The Fotografiska on the waterfront



art deco building on the waterfront. You'll definitely feel Stockholm's fashionable vibe if you visit on a bustling Saturday morning.

BEST FOR BRUNCHING

If you have one meal while on Södermalm, make it brunch at Scandi-chic Urban Deli, a nifty combination of restaurant and food store.

BEST FOR SHOPPERS

On bohemian Södermalm, you'll also find the vibrant Mosebacke Design District. This collection of edgy independent stores is a fascinating mix.

BEST FOR ARCHITECTURE

Around 3,000 lucky people call the enchanting district Gamla Stan their home. Exploring the city's Old Town – founded in 1252 – feels like being on set for a live-action remake of a Disney fairy-tale.

BEST FOR MUSIC FANS

It wasn't always cool to like Abba in Sweden. But head to the island of Djurgården, and that's a long forgotten memory. ABBA – The Museum proudly exhibits memorabilia, including the band's most famous outfits. Hone singing skills in karaoke booths and pluck up

the courage to perform on stage with holograms of Agnetha, Anni-Frid, Björn and Benny.

Scan your ticket before singing and your version of Dancing Queen will be available online for you to watch at home.

TRAVEL FACTS

Georgia Humphreys was a guest of easyJet which flies from London Luton airport to Stockholm up to four times a week, with prices starting from £25.24 per person (one-way, including taxes and based on two people on the same booking). GEORGIA HUMPHREYS



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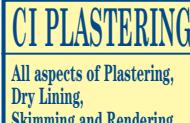
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Roofing

ALL WEATHER ROOFING

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Over 30 years experience

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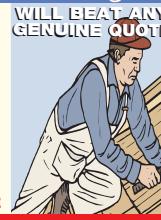
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ROOFING SERVICES

*One of the Leading Roofing Companies
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• Pointing Work From £15
SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
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- Flat roof specialist
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- **Discounted for OAPs**
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• Tarmacing • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios
• Landscaping • Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing
• Fencing and Decking • Power Washing • 5 year guarantee
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01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419
Web: www.acepavingservicesltd.co.uk
Email: acepavingservices@outlook.com
Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields, Halesowen B63 2QB


Tiling

I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories,
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.



FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.
Fully insured. Portfolio available.

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Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone

Walls • Floors • Bathrooms • Kitchens • Conservatories
All work undertaken • Call Tony for a free quote

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Full Window Wizard Services Available


• Misted Units Replaced
• Broken Hinges
• Door Adjustment
• New Locks Installed

**Call for further details
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2 Leisure Time

3 Home & Services

4 Pets & Animals

5 Business & Farming

6 Property

7 Jobs

8 Motoring

9 Local Information

10 Personals

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Modern and traditional memorials

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Or visit our showroom at
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lost & found

LOST - Ladies silver Rotary
watch on silver celtic bracelet.
Lost in Sedgley, Monday, June 5.
01902 686208.

1 Family

clothing - women

DRESS, blue with white pattern, size
20. Short sleeve, with once, £60.
Ideal for a Mother of the bride. 01902 333870.

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07831 246292.

STAIRLIFT, straight, for sale, regu-
lar use, £2000. 01922 337221.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned
lifts from £799. New available.

01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

**We Want Your
Motorhome**

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call

AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

ATLAS DYNASTY 2008
1 owner, immaculate condition,
37ft x 12ft, 2 bed, c/h, d/g, bright
lounge, ensuite, sunny decking,
walkable Machynlleth, cost 25
mins. license to 2029. Long
season. Free sat. £20,500 o.n.o.
Telephone 07711 526525.

CAMPER VAN 1991 MoT till March,
4 berth, tidy, year, plus awning,
£1,200. 07774 459576.

CLASSIC MOTORHOME long MoT,
35ft x 7ft, 2 bed, c/h, d/g, bright
lounge, ensuite, sunny decking, cost
25 mins. license to 2029. Long
season. Free sat. £19,000 o.n.o.
0121 421 7828.



12 month residential site, park
home lodge between Bewdley
and Bridgnorth. Fabulous views
own garden and drive way
£89.950
07774715830

MOTORHOME WANTED
Private buyer.
07896 732468.



Atlas Mirage 30ft x 10ft ideal if
you are looking for a peaceful
retreat.

Sorry no children.
£15,950.

Site fee included until
March 2018.

Telephone 01545 561138.

PRE-OWNED CARAVAN with
decking. Inc all 2017 site fees, full
12 month season. Payment options
available. TAC 2017 £10,995. Call
on 07890 944721 for details.

STATIC CARAVAN
12 x 12, with large decking, 2
bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid
Wales. 2 fishing pools, 20
minutes to coast, ground rent
included for 2017. Ridge limit,
dogs welcome. £7,950.
07555 303350.

WILLERBY ASPEN
Two bed, 6 berth, 2005, on The
Woodlands, Holiday Park, Tywyn,
Site fees paid up to
February 2018.
£14,999 o.n.o.
07724 704422.

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.

CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996

www.scavariansandmotorhomes.co.uk

CARAVAN WANTED
Can collect as
Call me on 07717 090817.

car boot sales

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSale

Now on A34, Cannock, Brocton,
between Cannock and Stanford
ST17 0SG
07890 267 041

WEDNESDAY BOOTSale

Now at Ivy House Farm, A461,
Springhill, Muckley Corner,
Lichfield WS14 0BX
07890 267041

SATURDAY BOOTSale

Boat Lane, Muckley Corner,
Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267041

music shop

BASS GUITAR with flight case.
Immaculate, cost £360, sell £290.
No offers. 01902 466691.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adverti-
sements? We would respectfully
remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

mind, body & soul

mobile

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage
Therapist Home / Hotel. To book
appointments call 07437 569187.

holidays

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday
Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly

01278 794111

www.GoSomerset.co.uk

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertisers
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT

At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 24th May

07957 399964

3 Home & Services

household appliances

BELLING COOKER ceramic hob,
hob, oven, oven, bottom oven never
used, very good condition, £50.
01902 452292.

items for sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE
REMINDED**
That the Business Advertisements
(Disclosure) Order of 1977
requires that advertisements
must clearly differentiate
between Private and Trade.

CREMATION PLOT for sale at
Bushbury Crematorium.
£800.
01902 780665.

GIRLS BIKE age 6-9 years, £20
o.n.o. As new. Childs pink bed-
frame, £10. Roof rack for Peugeot
206, £45 o.n.o. 07812 397213.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS**
Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farish/
any live steam, Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On,
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

music shop

**A A DIGITAL
AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75**

Work Guaranteed

01902 858191

01384 429166

01543 439095

01922 716029

07833 738857

**VISA
MasterCard**

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/wall mount,
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

**PREMIER
ALARMS**

Supplied and Fitted £195

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removals needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.

SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.

LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.

Free Quotes - Call Ric on:

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01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

A SHARED OWNERSHIP opportu-
nity. Share brand new 2bed,
Reception House, £170,000 buy
between 30-80%.

BUNGALOW, 3-bed Bungalow. Rent
£600pcm. Apartment Dudley, 1-bed,
rent £395pcm. 01384 230222.

ROOMS NETHERTHORN Refurbished
bungalow. 2bed, £170,000 buy
between 30-80%.

07970 171139 or 07940 116130.

SMALL FLAT fully equipped, refur-
bished, suit mature male. £95pw +
some services. 01384 821363.

houses for sale

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

**SHELL, ESSO,
CASTROL ETC
ALSO**

GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs,

Petrol Cans,

Old Jugs,

Classic Car Parts,

Bikes and Motorbikes.

Anything old.

**** TOP PRICES PAID ****

01384 836219/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus
any old games, consoles, games
accessories. Also crash magazines or
sinclair magazines. 01902 892918.

WANTED Any Enoch Powell memo-
ria. Telephone 01666 837747.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years exp

All aspects of building work

Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,

driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-

WOOD FLOORING @ low prices.

Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**

SPECIAL OFFER

10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete
posts, gravel boards £699.

Horizontal rails, 6ft high, 10ft wide,
supplied & fitted.

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656

Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
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DELIVERY AVAILABLE

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CLASSIFIED**

CLASSIFIED

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

gardening services

**GREENALY
LANDSCAPE**

**Fencing Decking
Slabbing Turfing**

**DBS
Checked**

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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED to check that anyone
carrying out any gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ment clearance. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accom-
modation (Letting) Act 1988 for an
Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

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properties wanted

**FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY**

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
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CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

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Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

Need to sell your home fast?**We can help you make a fresh start****With solutions to suit ...**
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS****WHY NOT CALL US TODAY**

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

*Terms and Conditions apply

SELL today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land RequiredRing Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star**coast & country****WILLERBY ASPEN**Double glazing.
Central heating.

Quiet family holiday park near Welshpool.

Fishing lake. Swimming pool.
2017 site fees paid.£18,000.
07545 871859.**flats for sale****MCCARTHY & STONE**

Two bedroom apartment

Penn Road

Immaculate condition

Many extras included.

For quick sale

£120,000.

01902 608273.

MUST BE SEEN**TWO BEDROOM GROUNDFLOOR APARTMENT**

In Penn Village.

£110,000.

01902 331155.

7 Jobs**employment wanted**

RETIRING TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work.
Own tools / tools.
Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

full time - general**The Earls High School**

Furnace Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3SL

Tel: 01384 816105

Email: recruitment@earls.dudley.sch.uk

CARETAKER (PART-TIME)

Grade 4, Scale Points 14 - 17
25 hours per week, all year round
£16,781 - £17,772 p.a. part time equivalent

The Governors wish to appoint a part-time Caretaker to join the School's Facilities Team. Core hours will be 4pm to 9.15pm Monday-Thursday and 4pm to 8pm on Fridays. During school holidays a degree of flexibility may be required.

Please contact the School for further details and an Application Form

or visit our website: www.earlshighschool.org

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 21st June

The Earls High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

MUST BE SEEN

8 Motoring**cars over £1500****EXCELLENT CONDITION****FORD FUSION**

2012, excellent condition, 9 months MOT, low mileage (38,995), 1 previous owner, new tyres, very good spare tyre, new break shoes, fully serviced 3 months ago, FSH, alloy wheels, CD, CD player.

Bargain
£4,295 ono.
07754 703586.**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**

2007, 24,000 Miles, Blue, ABS, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, FSH, alarm, long MOT, Lady owner, Good condition

£2,295 ono
07932 006566**4X4**

SUBARU FORESTER TURBO 4X4
120k miles, 12 months MOT, high spec, EM, EW, large sunroof, immobiliser lovely condition, £1,850.
01746 718931.

BARGAIN**SUZUKI ALTO**

October 2013.
39,000 miles.
Silver.
FSH.
Excellent condition.
£3,200.
01384 214817.

IMMACULATE**SUZUKI SX4**

2006.
82,000 Miles.
Blue.
Excellent condition.
£2,800 ono.
01384 258781.

FORD FIESTA STYLE

2006, 3-door hatch, metallic blue, 10 months MOT, electric windows, CD player, alarm.
£500
07538 650368.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA AGO
2010, 998cc, Group 1 insurance, lots of MoT, £20 tax per year, excellent condition.
£1,595
07851 213316.

ESTATE

VAUXHALL ASTRA
Eco 1700 diesel, 85,000 miles, alarmed, £30 per years tax, 58 plate, alarm, censors back and front, all tyres perfect with locking nuts.
£3,200.
07923 191378.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 BREEZE
2008, 60,000 miles, glass roof, long MOT.
£1,695
07913 981460.

7 SEATER

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
09 plate, 59,000 miles, 4 new tyres, serviced, 6 months MOT, been checked by Evans Halshaw, with paperwork.
£3,000 ono.
07923 191378.

cars under £1500**IMMACULATE**

BMW 318i
2004, red, manual gearbox, petrol, radio / CD player, 97k, MOT October 2017, Very good condition.
£850
07931 809992 (Wolverhampton).

BARGAIN

CITROEN C3
2004, 1400cc 49,650 miles, recent new clutch, full MOT, any inspection.
£595 o.n.o.
01902 829438.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI
1.2 16 valve, 02 Reg (MSO2CBU), silver, 11 months MOT, 90,000 miles, serviced, very good condition, new breaks timing chain, tyres, battery and water pump.
£595 ono.
07973 690543. 07913 528336.

LOW MILEAGE**VAUXHALL CORSA**

3dr, 2005, 43,500 miles
One lady owner from new, 6 months MOT.

£775 ono.
07900 930908/01902 785611.**VAUXHALL MERVIA ACTIVE**

2006, 83,000 miles, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MOT, £1,300 ono.
07984 518468.

FORD FIESTA STYLE

2006, 3-door hatch, metallic blue, 10 months MOT, electric windows, CD player, alarm.
£500
07538 650368.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DIESEL
2007
Outstanding condition
Two owners from new, Full MOT.
£1,250 ono.
07913 821657.

LOOK

FORD STREET KA LUXURY CONVERTIBLE
04 plate, metallic blue, good condition, new tyres, exhaust and battery, only done about 30 miles since last MOT (full MOT)
£900 ono.
07576 308558.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

HONDA CIVIC SPORT
Blue metallic, 1.4, 5 door, Petrol, 2000 Reg, One owner, 85,000 miles, full MOT.
£650 ono.
01902 651490.

BARGAIN

MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC
1400cc, 02 reg, 5 door, Hatchback, Low mileage, MOT Nov.
£575 ono.
0744 3377584.

GOOD RUNNER

RENAULT CLIO
52 reg, silver, very good runner, economical, Reliable, Long MOT.
Bargain
£395 ono.
07554 925292.

HAVE YOU CHECKED

your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is the responsibility of the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL AGILA
07 reg.
45,000 miles, MOT, service history, Blue, economical, cheap motoring, drives great.
£895.
Telephone 07856 107970.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI
1.2 16 valve, 02 Reg (MSO2CBU), silver, 11 months MOT, 90,000 miles, serviced, very good condition, new breaks timing chain, tyres, battery and water pump.
£4,800
07970 094280.

SCRAP VEHICLES

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/meta for cash.

WANTED**OLD CLASSIC CAR**

Triumph / MG / Jaguar / Porsche etc anything interesting, as project / investment, condition not important.
Please telephone Ron
07424 399776.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
06 plate, seven seater, gas converted, low mileage, full MOT, FSH, 2 keys, excellent condition.
Bargain
£1,495 ono.
07516 668223.

SORRY TO SELL IT

VW BEETLE CABRIOLET
54 reg, 1600cc, MOT, drives and looks great, alloys, PAS, alarmed.
£1,495.
07907 173317.

classic cars

GLENYS MARION SMITH (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 67, Hillcrest Road, Halesowen B62 8PF, on or before 20/05/2017, are referred to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 25/05/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the persons and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP

195 High Street, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8JW

T503909

LOOK

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN
2007 (57)
MoT January 18, 121k miles, 1.6 HDi diesel, service history, roof rack, hands free phone calling, 1 former keeper.

£1,500.

07831 806052.

4X4

FORD RANGER
Single cab pickup for sale
2004,
Price on application.
07831 356812

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA HIACE
58 plate, silver, very good condition inside and out, FSH with Toyota, 90,000 miles, MOT September, rear parking sensors, EW, Airccon, roof rack, pipe tube, plylined and shelving, alarm, 120bhp.
£4,800
07970 094280.

Scrap vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer will call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS

guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans.
07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED

Old Classic Car
Triumph / MG / Jaguar /
Porsche etc anything interesting,
as project / investment,
condition not important.
Please telephone Ron
07424 399776.

spares & accessories**accessories & services**

HALFORDS 360 LITRE Exodus roof box, excellent condition £120.

01384 375672 / 07527 360303.

9 Local Information**public & legal notices****MEET SEXY Local Women**

adult contacts, fast & discreet, direct no's: 0330 226244-07008 026348

07545 310311 or email: hyds@btinternet.com

sports clubs**PLAYERS WANTED**

Hednesford Town YDS U16's

have a fantastic opportunity for

talented footballers to join them in

the Central Warwickshire

Youth Football League for next

season (2017/18).

Players who successfully

make the team will have the

opportunity to develop their

football careers within a proven

pathway to either professional

or semi-professional football

under the guidance of Darryl Moffatt.

Trials are being held in

June/July 2017 for all player

positions. To be considered you

must have played at a high

standard and must be currently

in school yr 10, going into yr 11

in September 2017.

For more information or to

register your interest for the

forthcoming trials please

contact Martin Canning on

07545 310311 or email:

hyds@btinternet.com

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and become one**of hundreds of****customers****who regularly****receive****exclusive****special offers****& discounts.****ATTRACTIVE MALE 38, SEEKING FEMALE**

If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy cross country biking, bowling, cinema, pubs, meals out, walks, holidays etc new to Low Hill area and would like to meet a like minded lady aged 30 to 44 years for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.

Genuine replies only.

Photo appreciated (returned).

INCREDIBLE OFFERS ON ALL NEW CARS AT THE...

COST PRICE

PLUS
£1
EVENT

ON ALL
BRAND
NEW
CARS

4 DAYS
ONLY

Yes, it's true! -
Between Friday 16th
& Monday 19th June
2017, you can buy a
brand new car at
Cost Price + £1

If you think this offer is
UNBELIEVABLE,

The Cost Price Factory Invoice
will be on display on every
vehicle!



£1

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The John Cooper Works MINI model

Ultimate MINI is out there built just for UK market



Only 200 Yards From
Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

By John Griffiths

It's out there – the ultimate MINI to come from Cowley since the name and brand were launched by owners BMW. The 210bhp Cooper 'Challenge' edition sweeps in with extra horsepower, pace, dynamic ability and sports styling features above the already quick John Cooper Works model.

Built solely for the UK, the car is essentially 'testing the water' for a more extreme MINI, with customers providing essential feedback: assisting the development engineers in preparing for what might (or almost certainly will) come next. As someone who ran several 'classic' BL Minis in my younger years, blinging up and tuning these cars was almost mandatory: there was a whole industry devoted to it, unlike any other model I can think of with a bewildering array of off the shelf parts available.

Now, though, it's the manufacturer which is carrying on this British tradition. First there was the Cooper S, which saw an increase in engine size from a 1.6 to a 2.0 litre turbo. Then, in a collaboration with the legendary MINI tuners John Cooper Works, a 2.0 litre BMW turbo engine with power raised from 192 to 210bhp (plus a range of dynamic and trim upgrades).



The MINI Challenge

The Challenge car raises the stakes once again, with 231bhp, 320Nm of torque and a half a second quicker on the 0 to 62mph dash – 6.3 seconds, to be precise.

Not only the engine is uprated. It also has a new limited slip differential, revised gearing, wider tyres (215/45) on Team Dynamics black alloy wheels.

It's been designed for the real enthusiast, who may well want to indulge his or her passion with a track day. So the suspension is individually adjustable – with for example the ability to make the car harder to allow the car to drift through corners more easily.

Even on the standard setting it's firm, although it coped with potholes better than expected – a couple of times on my test run I braked myself for a jolt which didn't happen, the dampers soaking up the impact.

The touch of a switch changes the engine settings and steering from normal to sport mode, quickening the throttle response and sharpening up the already direct feel of the steering.

The Challenge car appears to build on the basic MINI virtues of well-balanced handling and reassuring stability through the corners.

Official fuel consumption is just over 42mpg (CO₂ emissions 155g/km) but if you drive it as enthusiastically as the car invites you won't be getting returns like that. It's a car designed more for fun than the economy run, and when it comes to fun it certainly delivers.

It is based on the Cooper S so interior space and luggage space remain the same, but the specification list is comprehensive and unique to the Challenge car.

There are electronic stability, traction and differential controls, cruise control with automatic braking, uprated brakes, John Cooper Works aerodynamic improvements, carbon fibre and piano black trim, on-board computer, air conditioning, John Cooper steering wheel with remote control buttons, twin exhausts, electric front windows and mirrors, a comprehensive infotainment and connectivity system, and the driver and front passenger get supportive sports seats.

The 'standard' JCW Cooper S is quick too, with its 210bhp and 0 to 62mph time of 6.8 seconds: it's significantly cheaper at just over £23,000. It, too, has normal and sport driving modes, plus uprated suspension and John Cooper Works aerodynamic and styling features.

It is firm but stable on the road, with superior cornering ability and that feeling of a direct connection between driver, car and road that makes for rewarding driving.

Fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions (officially 48.7mpg and 136g/km) make it a cheaper car to run and even with slightly less power and torque than the Challenge version it has an urgent, willing nature.

The range and diversity have certainly helped Mini sales, with registrations up by seven per cent in the first quarter of the year which is good news for workers in the company's British-based engine and assembly plants.

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Peter Holmes MBE, chairman of the Advisory Council with Hall of Fame member Roger Ellis, deputy Mayoress Elaine Hadley-Howells and deputy Mayor Phil Page



Steve Holmes from Penn Golf Club, Geoff Hopkinson of Wolverhampton Cricket Club, Sean Spinks, Wolverhampton Hockey Club, Sue Myers from Wolverhampton Ladies Hockey Club and Ghazi Zaki from Penn Cricket Club



Denise Frankham, Graham Hodson and Paul Loyd from Bilton Town



Gary Haynes, Helen Lower, Richard Attwood and Greg Sylvester

Shining a light on night of sporting achievement

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"Sportsmen and women have a knack. No matter what sport you are you can always find something to talk about."

WOLVERHAMPTON'S sporting achievements shone bright on a night of celebration in the city.

The Diamond Banqueting Suite in Skinner Street was the venue as Wolverhampton Sports Advisory Council marked its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1967, the body has supported and promoted the city's sportsmen, women and clubs.

As well as introducing the first sports centres in the city, a Hall of Fame has been created to honour sporting greats who have competed on, and conquered, the world stage.

An annual awards night also honours the grassroots heroes who put countless hours in helping coach and inspire the stars of tomorrow.

More than 240 people from the world of karate to football were there to share in the celebration along with the deputy mayor Phil Page and deputy mayor Elaine Hadley-Howells.

Hall of Fame members Alan Meddings (athletics), Richard Attwood (motor racing), Roger Ellis (cycle speedway), Jerome Atkinson (karate) and Helen Lower (table tennis) were in attendance along with Special Olympians Greg Sylvester and Gary Haynes.

In addition, six of the city's centenary clubs were represented.

Stirring

Sports Advisory vice-chairman Tim Lorimer kicked off an evening that included speeches from Page, karate stalwart Josh Johnson and Councillor Mac Singh, and a demonstration from young members of Johnson's karate club.

Chairman Peter Holmes MBE then took centre stage. The 85-year-old is a founder member of the Sports Advisory Council and has worked tirelessly over the years to recognise the achievements of the city's sporting stars and just as importantly, the work of the people at grassroots level and behind the scenes.

His passion and pride for the city's sports people was evident during a stirring speech and he declared the evening a success.

"I was overwhelmed," he said.

"The event was organised very well and I think everybody that was there seemed to enjoy it. It was

nice to see some of the Hall of Fame members there and we also had a nice representation of the centenary clubs.

"I must say, to have them all under one roof was a unique situation. It was everything that I hoped for, to bring sport under one roof."

"Sportsmen and women have a knack. No matter what sport you are you can always find something to talk about. It's a language all on its own."

"And I hope everybody went home saying 'I enjoyed that and let's look forward to the next 50 years'."

Holmes is proud to have seen the Sports Advisory grow from strength to strength since its formation in 1967.

"The town clerk at that time was a man named Ron Meddings," said Holmes.

"He said he looked upon the new group as a 'ginger group' – a group to liven up the council's attitude to sport. It was an expression I had never heard before."

"In those days the council's attitude to sport was extremely limited," he said.

"In the early days we had a famous councillor, Ted Lane, and we also had a member whose name was Reg Cooke."

"They were the influence behind the recognition of individuals in clubs who had done sterling work behind the scenes."

"It's amazing the number of people that have been recognised over the years for the work behind the scenes. Fifty years is quite an achievement and I am proud to have seen it grow."

Holmes was the driving force behind the city's Hall of Fame, which was introduced in 1999.

Peter Bilson, who was chair of committee formed to celebrate the Millennium asked me, 'what is sport going to contribute?' Initially, I said let's recognise the clubs that have celebrated their centenary. In those days there were 10.

"Then I thought, let's go one better and have a look at Hall of Fame. The first three people inducted were Charlie Stowe, Jack Taylor and Hugh Porter.

"Now we try to look to induct two, three or four people annually."

And he is only to eager to share and highlight the city's sporting success.

He added: "It's nights such as these we realise how lucky we are in Wolverhampton. We realise our contribution to the life of the city and the name of the city."

"That has been my aim, to make people realise what Wolverhampton has. We don't appreciate what we have in the city and this never ceases to amaze me."

"I was talking to guests on my table and they were quite amazed to realise what Wolverhampton had produced."

Centenary clubs: 1835 Wolverhampton Cricket Club, 1875 Wolverhampton Rugby Club, 1876 Wolverhampton Swimming Club, 1877 Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, 1885 Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, 1891 Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club, 1892 South Shifnalshire Golf Club, 1893 Penn Common Golf, 1895 Bilton Lawn Tennis, Bilton Town FC, 1896 Wolverhampton Ladies Hockey Club, 1898 Wolverhampton Casuals Football Club, 1903 Wolverhampton Cricket Club, Penn Golf Club, 1910 Wolverhampton Referees Association, 1913 Oxley Park Golf Club.

Hall of fame members: Charles Stowe (Golf), Hugh Porter MBE (Cycling), Jack Taylor CBE (Football), Billy Wright CBE (Football), Hayley Price (Gymnastics), Elvin Gordon (Judo), Rachel Heyhoe-Flint MBE (Cricket), Geronia Elford (Football), John Jones (Football), John Martin (Football), Rev. Kenneth Hunt (Football), Greg Silvester (Gymnastics), Dennis Stewart (Judo), Nick Jeavons (Rugby), Tony Wilson (Boxing), Bill Slater CBE (Football), Kathy Cook (Athletics), Gary Cook (Athletics), Dharan Pal (Weight Lifting), Don Evans (Motor Cycling), Ron Flowers (Football), Bob Thom (Cycling), Rosemary Stirling (Athletics), Frank Chilton (Rugby), Ken Keay (Football), John Rhodes (Motor Racing), Jerome Atkinson (Karate), John Sylvester (Polo), Stephen Sykes (Weight Lifting), John Coyle (Boxing), Alan Anthony Medding (Athletics), Tessa Sanderson CBE (Athletics), Sonia (Lannaman) Garmston MBE (Athletics), Archibald Edward Wones Compston (Golf), Percy Stallard (Cycling), Maureen (Tranter) Lewington (Athletics), Gary Haynes (Gymnastics), Rev. John Thorneycroft Hartley (Lawn Tennis), Susan Partridge-Chatter (Lawn Tennis), Rev. John Dallimore (Football), Jimmie (Jim) Dallimore (Football), Roger (Roger) Stedman (Football), Mark Holton (Athletics), Frank Spittle (Rifle Shooting), Richard Atwood (Motor Racing), Raymond Jones (Cycling), Denise Lewis (Athletics), Bert Williams MBE (Football), Craig Fallon (Judo), Diane Bailey MBE (Golf), Fiona Elliot (Table Tennis), Liz Brown (Squash), Helen Lower (Table Tennis), Michael K. Ayre (Swimming), Roy Addison (Boxing), Dr. Lisa Martine Kehler (Race Walking), Vikram Solanki (Cricket).

Superbike ace gears up for sports bar date

SUPERBIKE superstar John McGuinness will make a first-ever appearance at a Wolverhampton sports bar in November. McGuinness, a winner of 23 Isle of Man TT titles, will meet fans and answer questions on Thursday November 23 at Cleveland Arms, Stow Heath Lane.

He follows other sporting greats to have appeared at the venue, such as Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Bull, Snooker's John Parrott, darts legends Phil Taylor and Wayne Mardle and speedway world champions Tai Woffinden, Nicki Pedersen, Ole Olsen and Hans Nielsen at the venue.

Organisers are thrilled to land the Morecambe racer, who is currently in the early stages of recovery after suffering a broken leg, rib and back injuries in practice for the recent NW200, which ruled him out of this year's TT.

Cleveland Arms spokesman Will Adamson said: "We are proud and honoured to have John coming here, it's a major feather in the cap not just for us but for the city of Wolverhampton."

Tickets are just £10 for standard seats and standing, but a £30 VIP package is available (restricted to 40) which includes 6pm entry, priority seating, a picture with John printed and signed on the night and a buffet.

Call 01902 451021 or buy online at clevelandarms.com via paypal.

Knockout night with boxing pundit Bunce

THE face of boxing Steve Bunce will bring tales from the ring to the ECC Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton next month.

"Buncey" will take the stage to give a speech for guests on Wednesday July 19 at the club in Showell Road, Bushbury.

Popular pundit Bunce is a regular presence with broadcasters BoxNation, BT Sport and the BBC, along with magazine Boxing Monthly and a host of national newspapers.

The 54-year-old is London born and bred but now lives in Lichfield, commuting back to the capital for many of his media commitments.

He has more than 30 years of experience and has covered the sport for five separate Olympic Games and more than 50 shows in Las Vegas.

Bunce was once dubbed by flamboyant former world champion Chris Eubank Snr as "a legend in boxing" and has written a book, called 'the Fixer,' about the sport.

He offers a respected opinion on fighting matters past and present and will from questions from the audience. A full night of entertainment is for £20 a ticket, which includes a three-course meal and a professional photograph alongside him. For more information, call 01902 424 455.

Darts players Devon sent for friendly tie

A BLACK Country Elite darts squad travels to Exeter to take on a Devon All Stars side for a friendly fixture at the end of next month.

A full weekend of events at the oche will see the West Midlands contingent meet the home line-up on July 29-30.

A 17-strong group, led by Martin Greenwood, will make the trip to the city's All Stars Sports Bar, where the action will begin on Saturday after a blind draw. All players will first undertake a first-to-four legs game. Sunday will see eight doubles matches, under a format to be decided.

Sponsors who are interested are invited to get involved by calling 07388 822 310 or you can message Martin directly on Facebook.

Martin and Richard Duncan have organised the Halesowen Open knockout tournament this Saturday (June 17), as a tribute to Ben Morse. Ben, 36, was killed after being hit by a car in a suspected hit-and-run incident on May 1.

The Open takes place at the Yeltz Bar, on Old Hawne Lane. The £5 entry fee for players will split between the prize pot and the Just Giving fund for Ben's family. Register by 1pm for a 1.30pm start.

Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Celebrating a night of sporting success

Page 35



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Josh weights to grab his treble chance

WEST Bromwich's Josh Stokes will be planning to come down the weights after he's learned his craft as a professional boxer.

His progression continues when he looks to make it a hat-trick of paid victories at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, July 7.

The 23-year-old features on BCB Promotions' 'Made in the Black Country' show, sponsored by the Grosvenor Casino Walsall.

Stokes has boxed at cruiserweight on both occasions and looked imposing but plans to campaign in the, at least, light heavy division as his experience grows. It was at 81kg that he had more than 50 amateur bouts for Wodensborough Boxing Club, before turning over this year. He might even make super middle.

He has outpointed journeymen Mitch Mitchell and Curtis Gargano without conceding a round so far and now awaits his next test over four rounds.

He's had just a week off training since the Gargano fight on May 12 to go on holiday to Las Vegas with his younger brother Tom, who is also an unbeaten pro. One-to-one coaching at Johnson's Wednesbury Boxing Academy along with sparring alongside the likes of Jamie Cox, Ricky Summers and Lennox Clarke is helping him to progress further.

Bloxwich duo Luke Paddock and James Beech Jnr enjoy home advantage with Burton's Leon Gower also featuring. Stokes' West Bromwich cohort Tommy Loach also appears in the home corner, as do Tividale's Ryan Davies and Brummie Aaron Murphy.

The Black Country's only female pro boxer Lauren Johnson, from Wolverhampton, and Swadlincote super lightweight Connor Parker complete the card. Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside. Call the box office on 0845 111 2900.

Ruthless marches on towards bout for Midlands title

TYLER Denny feels just champion about winning his first pro title after claiming the British Challenge middleweight belt on Friday night.

He got eight rounds under his belt for the first time and outpointed co-challenger Anthony Fox at The Venue in Dudley, writes Craig Birch.

The 25-year-old southpaw, from Rowley Regis, used his attributes to great effect to roll over Fox through a clear 78-75 verdict with referee-for-the-night Terry O'Connor. The still-undefeated 'Ruthless' moved to eight bouts without defeat, rebounding from back-to-back draws in outings four and five.

Denny now looks in pole position for a shot at the Midlands middleweight title, with West Bromwich's Tom Stokes long moored as an opponent.

Polish heavyweight Krzysztof Kosela made his UK debut in a six-round support against Chris Healey. 'Cattleman' Kosela, a farmer, stands 6ft 7in and came into battle with 10 straight wins as a pro. But he couldn't find the punches to see off left-hander Healey who made him work for his 58-56 points victory.

Winning a family affair for fighters



The Charlesworth clan, Kiyra, Julie, Reuben

FIGHTING fit Halesowen martial artists have kept it in the family by landing a series of titles – including a 47-year-old mother who came out of retirement.

Jason Charlesworth heads Halesowen Martial Arts Centre and his proteges include son Reuben, daughter Kiyra and wife Julie.

The family of fighters battled it out in Northampton where Julie won the ladies open weight final, followed by Kiyra, a 13-year-old Bishop Milliner student, who won two divisions. Not to be outdone, 15-time world champion Reuben won the men's -74kg black belt division.

Other fighters, named the CMA Villains, have

Martial arts

competed successfully in Ireland, Holland, Belgium and Germany and compete every weekend.

Chief instructor Charlesworth, a 6th dan black belt, said: "We've got a great bunch of fighters and students at our centre, but most of all it's about the teamwork with the parents and all the instructors behind the scene. Without their support we wouldn't be as successful as we are."

CMA Villains' next date will be in Scotland, while Charlesworth and son Reuben are heading to Austria to give a seminar to the national team.

Losing draw as Hales are left frustrated

HALESOWEN'S season was once again blighted by the weather in a tense affair at Sutton Coldfield.

Having bowled the hosts for just 137 thanks to the efforts of Ross-Watt (4-48) and Rhodes (3-36), Halesowen came a little unstuck in their reply as they stuttered to 112-8 with four overs remaining when the rain came. Only Hassan Quami (23) and Jamie Harris (27) looked like building a meaningful innings as the Sutton bowlers created pressure on a difficult batting surface.

The losing draw sees Halesowen at eighth in the table. Captain Richard Brooker said: "Another excellent and improving performance, but for a couple of poor umpiring decisions in the middle of the game, which brought Sutton back into it, we were well on top. When the rain came the game was in the balance and could have gone either way. Next week we are at Wombourne and looking to get stuck in."

The second team were trounced at home by Himley in a low-scoring affair when chasing Himley's 108 all out. Hales could only muster 88 on a surface that was enjoyed by the spinners.

For Halesowen Hawker (5-27) Greening (2-35) and Bullock (2-27) all bowled with control on a worn surface whilst Himley off-spinner Tom Rhodes returned figures of 3-19. The application of the Halesowen chase led a lot to be desired as they slipped to bottom of the table.

In the Worcestershire League the thirds were defeated by Bromsgrove in the rain at St Godswells Park. Chasing a total of 232-8 only Scott Jones (41) and Nathan Hines (39) looked in any sort of form as the Hales repaid closed on 157-6. The fourth team were bundled out for 156 at Bredon with Matt Slater (42) the only real contribution. Bredon knocked off the runs with seven wickets in hand.

Runner joins man vs horse challenge

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club member Simon Hughes on Saturday took part in the famous Man versus Horse race in Llanwrtyd Wells, an event that has taken on cult status over an advertised 21 1/2 miles of Welsh hills, bogs, trails and tracks with runners pitting themselves against equine opponents.

With the river crossing impassable due to flooding, the distance was extended by another couple of miles to make a testing event all the harder.

Hughes crossed the line in 3.56.58 in 146th place overall – and the 38th human.

AYRES AIMS TO FACE OLD CLUB

DANNY Ayres is on target to face the club he left to join Cradley.

The Heathens fans' favourite has been struggling with muscle damage over recent weeks but is determined to make it back for the clash with Kent at Monmore Green on Monday. It's the first meeting in three weeks for Cradley after a hectic May saw them pick up vital league points.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "Danny has told us he is expecting to be back riding this weekend and that's good news for us on Monday."

"It's important for us to get a win on Monday, we know it will be a tough meeting because Kent have good riders and I'm expecting a good meeting."

"It's been a long wait for our fans to see the lads in action again and it will be good to see a big crowd. I know our lads have been frustrated at the lack of action, but once we get June out of the way we're busy again in July."

"It's just the way the fixture list has panned out and we have to take what we've got."

"I'm looking for three points on Monday."

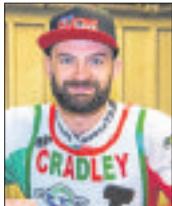
Target

Pottinger insists the target is for a top four spot by September.

"It's a tough league and our aim is to get into the play-offs," he said.

"Peter Adams, the most successful team manager of all, is always keen to point out it's all about September and October, not just the summer."

"It's the end of the season when trophies are decided and on our part we will just keep the points tally ticking over when we can."



Ayres ready to return

TT master turns back clock



Michael Rutter celebrates his TT win

(Picture: Datagag supported/Impact Images)

BRIERLEY-HILL born racer Michael Rutter turned back the clock and put in one of the rides of his life to win his fifth TT at the Isle of Man – smashing the race record in the process.

The 45-year-old reacted better than the rest to the damp conditions on the island to claim a win in the lightweight class, finishing the four-lapper seven seconds faster than anyone before.

Rutter, starting number four on the road, soon started reeling everyone in and was left to battle it out with Martin Jessop for top spot.

But his Paton had the pace to keep edging further and further ahead around the 37.73-mile course and he took the chequered flag 8.8

seconds ahead of Jessop, with Peter Hickman in third, during yesterday's afternoon race.

Rutter, who claimed his first victory on the island in the Junior TT in 1998, has claimed three TT Zero wins in between on electric bikes. "It's brilliant to win another TT race, especially as I'm getting on a bit now!" he said.

"I got my head down on the first lap but lost a bit of time at the pit stops so I had to dig deep to pull Martin back and once I'd caught him, we had a lot of fun."

Rutter had ridden his Bathams/SMT Superstock machine to a strong fourth-placed finish during the morning's Superstock TT and finished fifth in the opening Superbike TT.

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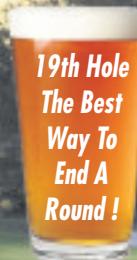
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